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For the convenience of Subscribers in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines. Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than 2 Months, and in advance, are received by M. BAUDRY, 4, Rue du Coq-St.-Honoré, Paris, or at the Athenæum Office, London. For France, and other Countries not requiring postage to be paid in London, 2s. 6d. or 12s. the year. To other countries, the postage in addition. (JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.)

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.—FACULTY OF MEDICINE.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the
SECOND EXAMINATION for the DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MEDICINE will commence on MONDAY, the 2nd of NOVEMBER; and that for the DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF MEDICINE, on MONDAY, 2nd of NOVEMBER. The Candidates required must be transmitted to the Registrar fourteen days before the commencement of the Examination to which they refer.
Somerset House, 24th July, 1840. By order of the Senate, R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the
EXAMINATION for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY, the 5th of OCTOBER. The only Certificate required from Candidates is that of having attained Sixteen years of age. This Certificate must be transmitted to the Registrar fourteen days before the Examination begins.
Somerset House, 24th July, 1840. By order of the Senate, R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, That the
following CLASSICAL SUBJECTS have been selected for Examination during the University of 1840:
For the DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS in 1841:
Homer—The Ninth Book of the Iliad;
Salustius—The Jugurthine War;
For the DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS in 1842:
Thucydides—The First Book;
Horace—The Odes, Epistles, and Ars Poetica.
For the MATRICULATION EXAMINATION in 1841:
Virgil—The First Georgic;
Xenophon—The First Book of the Cyropædia.
For the DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF ARTS in 1842:
Euripides—The Suppliants;
Cicero—The Summum Scipionis. The Second Philippiæ.
The Oration for Ligarius, and for Archias.
Somerset House, 24th July, 1840. By order of the Senate, R. W. ROTHMAN, Registrar.

KING'S COLLEGE, London.—SCHOOL.
The CLASSES will be RE-OPENED on TUESDAY, the 1st August, at Nine o'clock in the morning.
J. LONSDALE, Principal.

RICHMOND LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.
TO LECTURERS.—Communications respecting LECTURES, gratuitous or otherwise, are requested to be addressed to Mr. ALPENY, Assistant Secretary, George-street, Richmond, on or before Thursday, August 30.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.
The next (Tenth) Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, will be held in GLASGOW, during the Week commencing on Thursday the 17th of September, 1840.
JOHN TAYLOR, F.R.S., General Treasurer.
JAMES YATES, F.L.S., Secretary to the Council.
London, July 17, 1840.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION, MEETING AT GLASGOW.
THE COMMITTEE ON MODELS AND MANUFACTURES.
The Committee on Models and Manufactures, are now ready to receive Articles intended for the EXHIBITION at the ensuing Meeting of the BRITISH ASSOCIATION, to be held in GLASGOW, on the 17th of September next; and they request that intending Contributors who may wish to avail themselves of the Exhibition in bringing forward NEW INVENTIONS, SPECIMENS OF MANUFACTURES, WORKS OF ART, or other OBJECTS OF INTEREST, will immediately communicate with the Secretary.
By order of Committee, JAMES THOMSON, Secretary.
Glasgow, 24th July, 1840. 46, Claremont-place, Great Clyde-street.

THE DAGUERRETYPE, or mode of fixing,
by a self-acting process, the transient images shown in the camera-obscura. This wonderful invention is protected in this country by Letters Patent, and particularly honoured by Her Majesty's patronage. A large collection of specimens obtained by the Daguerretype is exhibited for sale by Messrs. CLAUDET and HUGHES, 90, High Holborn, at their warehouse for French glass shades, sheet, crown, and painted window glass. The specimens consist of views of London, Paris, Rome, Naples, and other cities; portraits from life, figures from the living models, &c.; also microscopic objects immensely magnified.

EDUCATION.—The attention of Parents desirous of affording to their Children an Education in accordance with the increased intelligence and wants of the age, is directed to an Establishment situated in one of the most fertile and healthy Counties of England, conducted by a Gentleman who is a member of a German University of the highest celebrity, and of several learned bodies. The course of instruction—founded on the most approved systems—comprehends the GREEK and LATIN CLASSICS, the FRENCH, GERMAN, and ITALIAN languages, taught by Professors residing in the house, the elements of Astronomy, the various branches of pure and mixed Mathematics, Geography, History, &c. Impressed with a conviction that no education can be obtained without an adequate knowledge of modern languages, the Principal has made them an essential branch of instruction in his school. Having himself resided many years on the Continent, and travelled much, he is intimately acquainted with the chief languages of Europe, and is enabled to superintend instruction in this important department of knowledge, with no inconsiderable advantage to his Pupils. Altogether this establishment will be found to afford to Pupils possessing average talents the certainty of receiving in a sound Classical and Mathematical Education, together with the most assiduous instructions in the principal Languages of Europe; so that on entering one of our Universities, or some Profession—Civil, Military, or Naval—they may be competent to engage in more enlarged studies with unusual advantages. Letters addressed to the Principal of Abingdon House School, Worcester, will receive immediate attention.

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MESSRS. T. WINSTANLEY & SONS, of
Liverpool, have the honour to announce that they have received directions from the Executors of JOHN DOUGLAS, Esq. deceased, to SELL BY AUCTION, with lots and judgment, his late Residence, GYMN, on MONDAY, the 24th August next, precisely at Twelve o'clock.

The Entire SPLENDID and HIGHLY-VALUABLE COLLECTION OF PICTURES, long admired as one of the first Private Collections in Great Britain, and well known to have been selected by the late Proprietor with taste and judgment, during a period of nearly forty years, at favourable opportunities, both upon the Continent of Europe and in this country. The Collection contains the following highly-estimable Specimens of Masters of the first class, namely:—The Annunciation, and The Descent from the Cross, by Murillo, painted for the Cathedral at Seville; St. Catherine, Domenichino, and St. Venera, by a very high quality, by Titian, Claude, Tempesta, Salvator Rosa, Lucatelli, Gaspar Poussin, Ruyssdael, Wynants, Moucheron, Isaac Ostade, Both, Waterloo, and Hobbins—With fine Specimens of Rubens, Curry, Brauer, Carr, Rembrandt, Teniers, de Heem, Hondelcoeter, Ostade, Mieris, and other Flemish and Dutch Artists. Amongst them is a splendid Interior of the Antwerp Cathedral, by Neefs, of an unusual size and fine quality. A valuable set of the "Seven Sacraments," in the manner of Nicolo Poussin, by Stella—Ten accurate and desirable Copies from the principal Pictures exhibited in the Louvre, in 1814, painted for Mr. Douglas—A set of Cartoons, in Chiaro-scuro in Oil, of St. Paul and the Twelve Apostles, in the finest taste of the Italian School, and suitable for a College, Library, Hall, or Gallery of Art.

The Productions of the English School comprise The Laughing Girl, by Sir Joshua Reynolds—A brilliant Italian Lake scene, by Richard Wilson, from Nollekens's Collection, and a Dove-dale, by the same Artist—A Scene near Dunkeld, and the Bay of Naples, by Wright of Derby—Blackfriars Bridge when building, a masterpiece of Mr. Hodge's—A charming Landscape, by Louthborough, by Turner, by Landon, by Gainsborough, Shepherd and their Dogs—Representing one of the most carefully-painted Pictures of George Morland; and the celebrated Bull and Two Cows, the scene of the famous Bull-baiting, by the same Artist. To be viewed on Friday the 21st and Saturday the 22nd, when Catalogues may be had at GYMN, of Messrs. Winstanley, Paternoster-row, London; or at Messrs. Winstanley, 12, Abchurch-lane, Manchester; at the Office of the Glasgow, Chester, & at that of the Midland Counties Herald, Birmingham; at the Hand Hotel, Llangollen; the Penrhyn Arms, Bangor; the Uxbridge Arms, Carnarvon; the Crown, Wrexham; the King's Arms, Holywell, and of Messrs. T. Winstanley & Sons, Liverpool. Price 1s. each.

On TUESDAY the 25th, WEDNESDAY the 26th, THURSDAY the 27th, and FRIDAY the 28th, will also be Sold,
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FRECHTHEUM CLUB, or Auxiliary Athenæum.—At a Meeting of the Committee of this Association, held at the temporary offices of the Club, No. 6, Waterloo-place, Pall Mall, on Friday, the 24th day of July, 1840.
Sir JOHN DEAN PAUL, Bart. in the chair.
It was resolved that the Committee having elected one hundred Members from the list of Candidates, do meet again on THURSDAY, the 6th day of August next, at One o'clock precisely, to proceed to the Election of the Second Hundred Members, and other business of the Club.
Noblemen and Gentlemen desirous of joining this Association are requested to send in their applications immediately to the Secretary, H. E. Paine, Esq. at the Club, or to all other communications respecting this Club must be addressed.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1840.

REVIEWS

A Summer amongst the Bocages and the Vines.
By Louisa Stuart Costello. 2 vols. Bentley.

THESE volumes have many claims on attention, besides their external ones of typographical neatness and delicate wood-illustrations. They are welcome, as another testimony of the growing disposition of our travellers to quit the beaten track—as affording another glimpse of districts which we have long wished to see laid open, namely, the provinces of France. Of the difficulty of access to the magnificent antiquarian relics of La Grande Nation, nay, even to some of its considerable towns, we, “who sit at home at ease,” and to whom every village and ruin throughout our own kingdom suggests the idea of a railroad or a “four-horse coach,” have little idea. It was but the other day that we heard a land journey from Havre to Bordeaux denounced as all but impossible, by a highly-educated French gentleman, well acquainted with the provinces; and this on no fantastic grounds, but on the score of bad inns, worse conveyances, and worst roads. Till great changes take place, France must remain Paris—as the approach has heretofore run; and anxious as we are to destroy all such monopoly of intellect and social progress as is implied in the adage, we are thankful for any provincial sketches and notices calculated to call attention to places of antiquarian interest or commercial prosperity, which, despite their ruins or their trade, are still unreasonably neglected. We are very thankful when the “caller” has as many attractions at command as Miss Costello, who is at once a graphic landscape and costume painter, a well-informed, but not a pedantic antiquarian, and an elegant poetess. In the latter capacities we had occasion to admire her some years ago, when examining her previous work, the ‘Specimens of the Early Poetry of France,’ (*Athen.* No. 394.)

The first part of Miss Costello's tour leads her over ground recently traversed and described by Mr. Trollope; both are diligent collectors of legends, but the lady “has a way with her,” which makes us admire that fantastic antiquarian lore, retailed, but less to our satisfaction, by the Tourist in Brittany. Antique superstitions, ancient ballads, obscure passages of history, are an essential part and parcel of her pursuits, and therefore are gracefully interwoven with—not thrust head and shoulders into—her personal narrative.

To explain the title of her *Summer Tour*, Miss Costello warns the reader not to confound “the Bocage of Normandy with the sombre district generally recognized by that name in La Vendée.” She begins her journey at Havre, Caen, and Bayeux,—mercifully, in the latter town, dwelling rather on the strange mingling of good and ill accommodation in the Lion d'Or than on Queen Matilda's tapestry, which, since the time of Mrs. Bray's (then Mrs. Charles Stothard) agreeable book, has been positively worn threadbare by tourists. Less hackneyed is the legend of La Dame d'Aprigny, a she Robin Goodfellow, who used to haunt the Rue St. Quentin about midnight, courteously inviting any chance passenger to take a walk with her; if he consented, presenting her hand to him with a courteous gesture, darning gravely along by his side for a few minutes, then disappearing with a courtesy;—if he declined, resenting his want of gallantry by plunging him into the neighbouring moat, which, to make his punishment greater, was deep, and plenteously fringed with thorns and brambles. Yet wilder, and more fanciful,

is the tale of the Fairy of Argouges, who protected a powerful baron, and, indeed, consented to become his bride, on the express stipulation that the word “DEATH” was never to be uttered in her presence. Bayeux is rich in tradition; it had its treasure-diggers as late, Miss Costello tells us, as the year 1827; it has its believers in the *Letiche*, a supernatural appearance of the soul of an unbaptized infant—and, as our authoress “risked offending” on several occasions, by inquiries about the loup-garou, it is plain that that hideous monster is still evoked by nodding crones, to terrify refractory Norman babes:—

“It is believed that if a death occur in a house, the only method to secure the safety of the bees is to hang a black rag over the hives, otherwise they will die in nine days. On Christmas night animals are supposed to have the power of speaking together. * * A custom still prevails in the neighbourhood of Bayeux on Twelfth-night.—A child is hidden under the table on which the cake is cut, of whom the guests inquire, ‘Whose share is this?’ he replies by naming successively all the company, not omitting the share appropriated to God, which is reserved for the first poor person who appears. If any of the family be absent, his share is carefully put by; if he remains well, the cake continues fresh; if ill, it begins to be moist; if he dies, the cake becomes bad. Not many years since, it was a fashion amongst the *bourgeoisie* to go from house to house among their friends asking for ‘*la part à Dieu*,’ to the sound of the violin, singing verses made for the occasion.”

But enough of these vagaries of imagination and ignorance. At St. Lo, a large town, a stranger recently found it difficult, according to Miss Costello, to change English gold elsewhere than at the *messageries*. A damsel in a goldsmith's shop, who was applied to for the purpose, had recourse in the perplexity arising from a tender of sovereigns, to a treatise on numismatics published in the last century; and finally, on being made to understand that the mysterious coins were not *des guinées*, declined the transaction, unless she might be allowed to send one of the gold pieces to her father, who was some miles distant in the country.

We must loiter a moment at Avranches, not because its library contains the ‘*Sic et Non*’ of Abelard, and, among other MSS., a poetical work transcribed by Frère Nicolas de Launey, prior of Mount Dol, from which Miss Costello has translated ‘*Le Chant du Roussigneu*’ in her own graceful manner, but for a morsel of romance, something more modern, which a vaudevillist would entitle “His first cravat”:—

“Another cottage was the abode of a young shoemaker, whose foppery and conceit were a frequent source of amusement to us. He evidently considered himself the Adonis of the *quartier*, and might, probably, not be solitary in his opinion. One morning, on the occasion of a fête, his vagaries were quite irresistible. There had been a flood of rain during the night, and all the ground before his dwelling was soaked; nevertheless, there stood our neighbour, in a costume so resplendent, that I scarcely recognized him. His shirt was snow-white, his trousers the same, his jacket, of the *juste milieu* length, of a rich blue, evidently new from the tailor's; his cravat was silk—I have no doubt the first he had ever called his own, for it was the very crown of his glory that day—it was perfect! variegated from blue to grey, from grey to purple, in the most delicate shades—no description can do it justice. Jean was calling vehemently to some one within the house; the noise he made seemed an involuntary ebullition of dignity, or it might be intended to attract the attention of those around. He continued to look anxiously up and down the road, and at the lowering sky; he untwined his neckcloth, gazed at it with satisfaction, waved it in his hand, hummed a tune, and re-entered his domicile: this was early in the day, but every half-hour he re-appeared on the *parvis* of his habitation, capering and singing, and endeavouring to draw the attention of the passers-by to his appearance. Be-

tween every shower, like, and with, a gleam of sunshine, he started out and continued his exhibition. At length the weather cleared, and his spirits seemed to rise accordingly: ‘*Ah!*’ he exclaimed, ‘*voilà le beau temps; je m'en vais mettre ma cravate! maman, donnez-moi donc ma cravate!*’ and he sprang over his paternal gutter in ecstasies. Presently appeared the *maman*, a *bonne grosse femme*, with the pocket of her red apron stuffed with something good, as Jean ascertained by thrusting his hands in, in spite of her laughing remonstrances, and there, in the face of all his neighbours, did she give the finishing tie to the renowned cravat. A little light girl of fifteen next came out: her high net fly-cap sticking out like butterfly's wings on each side, a gold pin adjusting the ribbon which bound it, a carnation-coloured apron, dark blue petticoat, and green sleeves, blue stockings, little red socks, and black sabots, altogether as *gentil* a little figure as ever leaped over a *ruisseau*. Still all did not seem ready—still the party looked wistfully along the road, when suddenly the repeated exclamation of *la voilà!* introduced to our observation a beautiful young shepherdess approaching; really beautiful, and truly a shepherdess. Her towering cap, with its gossamer sails, was confined by a silver ribbon; her petticoat was of a rich coffee brown, her apron a dahlia crimson, her handkerchief golden yellow, her sleeves grass green, her collar snow white, delicately plaited and pinned down behind so as to display her white throat, bound by a little black cord, from which depended her *Saint Esprit* and cross. She held in her hand a long whip doubled, and before her ran briskly, occasionally climbing the banks like goats, three long-tailed lambs. These she drove before her, till from a neighbouring lane she was met by two men, one who, his *sombrero* shading his dark eyes and lively young countenance, looked almost Spanish, and the other a hale old man, each in gala dress. These were evidently her brother and father. The latter took possession of the little flock; and now peals of laughter and shouts of greeting explained the proceedings of a whole day, and the happy party, each selecting a companion, sallied out to enjoy the fête, while the old shepherd and a steady-looking friend leisurely pursued their route with their fleecy care at their side.”

A domestic usage, too, is a novelty to us, and must create as much disturbance as the independent proceedings of the *Jemimas* and *Clarissas* who perform the office of “helps” across the Atlantic:—

“We were both amused and annoyed at a custom which prevails, I believe, everywhere in Catholic countries, but particularly at Avranches, where the people are very devout. It is at certain periods of the year the sudden announcement from your servant maids that they are *en retraite* for a week; i.e. if they belong to a society called *Les Bonnes Sœurs*. These *Sœurs* are a species of amateur sisters of charity, or nuns: when their youth begins to wane many women attach themselves to this community, thereby avoiding the reproach of *single blessedness*, and gaining a reputation for piety at little expense. They enter service, and go through all worldly occupations as usual, but have made a vow of devotion to the Church, and of giving up all their spare time to its duties. Occasionally they are called upon, and their mistresses must do without them, for as long a period as they are required to attend to their adopted vocations. Their time is then spent in visiting the sick, in begging charity, and in prayers. As their conduct is generally good, persons do not object to receive them as servants; but such proceedings are anything but convenient, particularly to English families, who are not quite aware when these sudden calls on them may take place. It is not unusual to be accosted in the street, and requested to contribute to some charitable undertaking by one of these *Bonnes Sœurs*, who bustle about with an air of great importance during their temporary power, and, it must be confessed, have, at all times, an air of patronage and superior sanctity which, for my own part, did not give them much favour in my eyes. It appears to me to be a species of inquisition which families may as well avoid. Many persons of rank belong to this order, and frequently will call in their carriages

and send up their names, when they announce their business to be begging *pour l'amour de Dieu*."

Avranches is a capital centre for excursions: but we must leave it for Mortain; and we must leave Mortain, with its waterfalls, and antiquities, and guide, in whom, from his intelligence and poetical enthusiasm, Miss Costello foresees a future Victor Hugo. Vire comes next: must it be once again named as "being the birth-place of the author of those *vaux-de-vire*, or *vaudevilles*, so characteristic of France itself; in their origin songs in praise of wine, but since extending to the length of dramas?" Vire is, at this day, a cheerful, well-ordered place, with the comforts of life cheap, and the objects of interest numerous, and, what is more, tempting to the traveller and resident, by their being preserved and adorned with a care and good taste unhappily too rare in France. Of course, the main objects of interest to Miss Costello in Vire are the traces of Olivier Basselin, the poet of the *Vaux* :—

"He lived (says Miss Costello) about the middle of the fifteenth century. He was the proprietor of a fulling mill amongst the deep valleys which have been already described, which was his court, where flocked around him the subjects of his eloquence and the slaves of his verse. His mill flourished; that is, it produced enough for his moderate wants; and what cared he for the pettish murmurs of his relations, who urged him to increase his wealth and suspend his enjoyments? So long as his vine was fruitful, as his orchards yielded a constant supply of cider and perry, all beside was not worth a thought; and he laughed and sung, and sung and laughed again, from night till morn, from morn till dewy eve. And who could refuse to be a sharer in his revelry? who close their ears to his bewitching voice? None, at least, in the whole range of the *Vaux de Vire*, if we except his natural enemies the monks. * * Perhaps, being good judges, and aware, besides, that the *Vaux* could boast of *vin du bon*, they felt uneasy and disappointed at the impossibility of joining in the revels which were so much enjoyed by their less pious neighbours. However this might be, they ceased not to inveigh against the gaiety, of which offending the miller-minstrel was the head and front." * * Unlike the earlier bards, whose lays he superseded, he refrained from repaying his enemies, the monks, in their own coin, by vituperation or ridicule, but bore their ill-nature merrily. His family, fearing that his fortune would suffer materially by what they considered his dissipated course of life, influenced, of course, by priestly advice, had him put *en curatelle*; that is, under the care and influence of these tutors. * * Olivier had not always lived, a secluded minstrel, in the *Vaux de Vire*; he had been in stirring scenes, and taken part in the enthusiasm produced by the exhortations of the wise and tender Agnes Sorel, and the glorious example of the heroic and unfortunate Pucelle, while Charles VII. was struggling for his birthright. He is reported to have been in the famous battle of Fourmigni, a representation of which, in quaint painting, is still shown to the visitor of the tapestry of Matilda, at Bayeux, that battle, so important for France, and so disastrous for the English, who were losing, step by step, under the ill-fated Henry VI. all that his great father had gained. The poet is said, however, not to have equalled in bravery his predecessor, the minstrel Taillefer; but, like Horace, whom he occasionally quotes, appears to have preferred peace to war. His education had not been neglected. * * The circumstances of Basselin's death are not recorded by any historian of the time; and even his zealous admirer, Le Houx, makes no mention of it: with this, however, we have nothing to do. It is certain, that during his life he was not only gay, witty and joyous himself, but the cause of the same in others, and so continued to the end of time. From the time when his lively songs delighted the convivial meetings throughout the Bocage, the *contes* and *fabliaux*, which formerly reigned supreme, were abandoned; and if we consider the length of some of these, it cannot but be a relief to think how happy 'a gay party' must have been 'when relieved from the pressure' of such tiresome entertainments, and hailing the 'champagne' of Olivier's sparkling *vaux-*

de-vires. Notwithstanding the enthusiasm which the lays of Basselin excited in the Bocage, it was years after his death before he began to be thoroughly known throughout France. This is scarcely surprising, when the situation of his abode is considered. * * As soon, however, as time allowed, a host of imitators spread themselves abroad; the style and manner of Basselin were generally adopted, and the original poet was lost in the *mêlée*. The name of *voix-de-ville*, or *vaudeville*, was given to those songs, and no one inquired what was its origin. The fanciful etymology which has gained ground appeared natural enough, viz. that these songs were *mots à la mode*, similar to the *passe-caille* of the Spaniards—songs sung in town; or in the streets—*passerue*. The learned editors of Basselin's works have, however, now set this matter at rest, and restored to the poet the honour which is his due, confirming his just title of 'Vrai Père du Vaudeville.'"

How different is this *gai* miller of Vire, from his jolly prototype, whom Chaucer drew, and who still "lives by the River Dee," as far as ballad popularity can insure immortality! We are so far infected with Miss Costello's enthusiasm, that we must give a specimen of his powers :—

Constancy.—*Vau-de-Vire*.

They call me idle, vain, and ill,
They laugh to scorn my minstrel skill,

And bid me cease my lay;
But let them rail, the same to me,
I cannot with their vision see,

And bear it as I may.

Deem not, dear mistress of my soul,
My cherish'd friend, my trusty bow,
The hate and envy that beset me
Can make me faithless, and forget thee.

Should I become so wise or weak,

As leave untouched the wine I cherish,
My former vows of fondness break;

And let those drops of treasure perish;
Should I—a traitor, let them stay,

And lose their sweetness day by day,

Till sour, and pale, and tasteless grown,

'Twere drink for enemies alone;

The deed were base—unworthy me,
Unworthy all I've sung of thee.

No: in the ruby of the cup,

A little sun looks smiling up;

And, while it smiles and sparkles so,
Who shall its magic charm forego,

Or say the vine's rich fruit was made
To be neglected and betray'd?

To make this episode complete, we shall add Miss Costello's pretty picture of the mill as it now stands :—

"Having walked for some time amongst the valleys, we began to retrace our steps, and at an angle of the road sat down on some felled trees by the side of a pretty bridge, opposite to a romantic-looking thatched cottage, which formed so pleasing an object with its background of high grey rocks festooned with grape vine, that I began to sketch it, the more interested on perceiving on a small tablet in front an inscription stating it to be the first house in the *Rue de Basselin*. There, then, I thought, probably lived the poet of the *Vaux*, perhaps in this very house; but while I was musing on the subject, a traveller passing on horseback observed my occupation, and dismounting, with great politeness informed me that I had mistaken the spot, for though this picturesque *Rue* had its name from the poet, the mill and house where he was born and sung was at the other end of the lane. As he spoke, he pointed it out, and I then saw at once the difference in the age of the two buildings. A modern house has been added to the mill, the stream of which is wilder here than in any other part, as it rushes over stones, which form it into a little cataract. Part of the original tenement remains with its striped front, low doors, and projecting stories: immediately opposite rises a magnificent rock, and the road from that point becomes more and more precipitous, breaking into a thousand beauties at every ascent. Behind the poet's mill, stretching far into the *Vaux*, is the Coteau des Cordeliers, where once stood the convent of his monkish enemies, who could overlook his movements rather more, probably, than he desired. Nothing can be more romantic and pretty than this situation, and our guide was as much pleased as ourselves at discovering a new feature in the tour, for though he had heard something of the mill, he was ignorant of the poet, and when I told him of the enmity between

Basselin and the monks, his Spanish recollections of numerous peccadillos on the part of his old acquaintances of the fraternity revived, not in a manner peculiarly complimentary to the reverend fathers. As we sat enjoying this scene, the clear river rushing along beside us, the waterfalls murmuring on all sides, a bright clear sky, grey fantastic rocks and verdant coteaux surrounding us with beauty; the presence in this quiet place of a little fairy seemed all that was wanting, and as if to complete the picture, we were presently joined by a pretty innocent black-eyed child, of between two and three years old, who, with all the unsuspicious freedom of infancy, came to make acquaintance with us, and to tell us her little stories of new sabots and clean aprons. Such a little chatter-box as Therese I have seldom seen, though with all her good will her tongue had not yet the power of her imagination. We found that both her father and mother were occupied in the mills, and during their absence she was left to the care of other little girls similarly situated, and thus they wandered about in the sunny valleys, some of their parents stealing occasionally a few minutes to look after them. The air of independence of '*la petite Moriscoe*,' as our guide, who like most soldiers seemed very fond of children, called her, was peculiarly amusing, and her manners so interesting, that we parted from her with regret after giving her a *bonbon* and the kiss which she put up her pretty little mouth to receive. She was just the sort of being to live in the poet's valley and haunt the poet's mill."

Dinan seems to be one of those happy places about which all travellers and journalists are agreed. The circumstance alone of Miss Costello's first resting-place being at the hotel in the Place du Guesclin, is a sufficient indication how, in one important respect, it must have provided for her the legendary and antiquarian interest she loves to follow out. The church of St. Sauveur, a storehouse of grotesque carvings, is also a storehouse of grotesque tales—vide the story of the Asses of Rigourdenne, and of the Wyvern of the *Pointe de garrot*. We must resist Dinan, however, with its historic remembrances, its legends, its mineral springs, and its excursions, all, as we remarked when noticing Mr. Trollope's book, rational temptations to the English who have settled there. One fragment only, from the many rich pages devoted to the place, can be here given: it is the picture sketched by the authoress on her return Dinanwards from the Château de la Garaye :—

"As we advanced along the road, we observed, from time to time, a deserted cottage, of an antique form, with long shelving roof and high chimneys, sometimes these dwellings were in an enclosed field, sometimes close to the path; perfect stillness prevailed—not a sound broke the gloom; the windows were barred, the doors locked and bolted, the little gardens overgrown with weeds, and the walls covered with moss and falling in breaches at the distance of every few yards: wild trees tossed their arms above these ghostly-looking habitations, and all looked the very impersonation of decay. The ruins of an antique monastery now came in view. A few painted windows, overgrown with weeds and ivy, looked sadly down the stony road. Some carved stones showed that tombs had once been enclosed in the chapel hard-by, and the foundation of what might be a Roman temple, so solid was its cement, flanked the rugged lane which led onwards to an open space, after traversing which, the deserted village was fairly gained. It had evidently been once very extensive, and some of the ruined stone houses are of good size. Streets of irregularly constructed tenements ramble away into one, which leads into a square, on two sides of which doorways of early Norman architecture prove the existence, in other days, of a large religious establishment, and in the centre appears a high cross, uninjured, except by time, bearing every mark of great antiquity, and presenting a precious monument to antiquarian research. How it happened to be forgotten in the time of revolutionary impiety seems another wonder attached to this wonderful place, and adds to the mystery which envelops all about it. The cross is composed of a column, light and graceful, supported by a pedestal orna-

mented with Gothic sculpture, and surrounded by three flying buttresses, all of which rest on a triangular base. The summit of the column is crowned by a piece of sculpture which represents the Eternal Father, holding in his arms the cross on which the body of the Son is extended, while several angels and saints are crowding round the group. All this is carved with great delicacy, and may be of the eleventh or twelfth century; but its origin is unknown, and the whole history of this remarkable village seemed buried in oblivion. The awe inspired by the extreme silence and desolation around was only now dissipated by the sound of flails, as a party of threshers were assembled in the open space round the cross, engaged in their occupation: they probably belonged to some neighbouring farm, as not a hut or house was in a state fit for habitation, in the silent and mysterious village of St. Esprit. This method of threshing corn is very primitive. We had been amused in our walk to the well, by passing through a small bourg, which is the direct and only way to that unfrequented spot, and finding it entirely filled with men, women, and children, all busy with their flails, beating out the corn on the stones of the street, amidst the straw, where, every here and there, lay nestled the infants of the inhabitants, apparently enjoying the gaiety of the scene, as their parents, with joyous countenances, moved in a circle, in a kind of druidical dance, using their flails in a sort of measured time, while foot passengers and waggons passed amongst them without stopping their career. It was sufficiently comic, and so singular, that we could not help pausing to observe the regularity of their strokes and the rapidity with which they advanced in their work, in this unsophisticated manner."

At St. Malo, we are fairly in Brittany; but that interesting district, as here treated, cannot be dispatched at the close of an article. Much of the matter collected by Miss Costello is new to us. Her journals are largely enriched by references to the works of the Baron du Taya, and that of M. Villemarqué, on the poetry of the district; and specimens from the collections of the latter are introduced, gracefully translated by the authoress. The minstrel is still, indeed, a living and breathing person among these primitive people. M. de Villemarqué found, in the heart of Basse Cornouaille, a poor hump-backed peasant, named Loiz Guivar, or (by the peasantry) Loiz Kam, in French, Louis le Boiteux, "a correct representation of the dwarf who figured at the courts of the kings of France," who is consulted and looked up to, partly as a seer, besides being followed for his poetical stores, which, original and traditional, are not merely popular, but influential. This benevolent Quasimodo betook himself, a few years ago, to attack the cardinal vice of the Bretons, namely, drunkenness, not like Father Mathew, by a pledge and a medal, but by a song; and, according to M. Villemarqué, "this had so good an effect, that in his canton the frequenters of the tavern have sensibly diminished."

Ere we rest for the week, we must still add a notice of another native genius, in whom Miss Costello found a remarkable specimen of that talent for the plastic and imitative arts so strongly discernible among the Bretons:—

"There lives at Rennes, but little known beyond his own neighbourhood, a genius of a very high order, whose works require only to be seen by connoisseurs to be appreciated as they merit. He inhabits a little low house in one of the squares, and his modest window is filled with plates, locks, and barrels, indicating his occupation of gun-smith: you enter his small crowded shop, and behold a venerable-looking old man, with an agreeable and very intelligent countenance, in an apron and cap, and busily engaged at his work. It is not difficult to get him upon his favourite topic, and he then enters with infinite spirit on the mysteries of his craft: a thousand little drawers are opened, and minute pieces of carved and graven metal are produced, destined to ornament pistols and guns of various kinds. M. Gourjon, for so the artist is called, had employed several years of his life in the perfection of a work

on which he lavished the greatest pains and trouble, and which called forth all the resources of his genius. This piece of sculpture, unique in its kind, was sent to Paris to be exhibited, but, in the confusion of the Revolution of 1830, it was 'spirited away,' and all the fruit of years of anxiety was lost to the artist who had placed all his hopes of fame on its success. He has since reason to think this precious *fusil* has been purchased by an English gentleman in the Mauritius, who, if he is really the possessor of so great a treasure, should be aware that a pendant to the great work is at this moment occupying the attention of the sculptor, whose enthusiasm for his art no disappointment has been able to damp. * * Nothing can exceed the delicacy and beauty of both his carving and engraving on wood, and steel and silver: the subtlety of the allegories he introduces bearing upon the subject he undertakes to illustrate, are curious, and breathe the spirit of a Cellini as much as his work resembles those of the great master. Not a hidden opening, not a concealed spring in the mysterious gun, but is covered with work of the most elaborate kind, *arabesque* and *damascined* as if by the finger of a gnome, and, at the same time, with a boldness of design which is truly admirable. He has a son a rising artist, who is studying at Paris, and who has been employed on some pictures for the town hall of Rennes, particularly a portrait of Louis Philippe, which is remarkably good."

We shall here pause: to ourselves, in the potency of her temptations to the "Bocages and the vines," Miss Costello is a formidable rival to all others, who, appropriately to the season, have just put forth summer tours. At all events, we intend to journey further with her on paper.

CRIME IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS.

Juvenile Delinquency in Manchester. By W. B. Neale, Esq. Manchester, Hamilton.

THIS is a plain statement of some important facts in the condition of the manufacturing population. The author has had access to the Police Records, and consulted the Poor Law Commissioner of the district, and has judiciously availed himself of these opportunities, confining his attention chiefly to facts, and avoiding general theories. There are many who content themselves with explaining all that relates to juvenile delinquency, and indeed every crime, by a general reference to human depravity; others trace it to imperfections in the laws and constitution of society; but those who personally investigate the subject will find on the very threshold of their inquiry that there are situations and circumstances which must as necessarily produce crime, as unwholesome food and a tainted atmosphere will generate disease. It was said by Napoleon, in the early part of his residence at Elba, "Sous quelque rapport que l'homme soit envisagé, il est autant le produit de son atmosphère physique et morale que de son organisation." There are but few in the present day who will question this as a general truth, but we propose to illustrate it practically, by examining some of the physical and moral circumstances which have produced so large an amount of juvenile delinquency in the manufacturing districts and in their great emporium, the town of Liverpool, which may be regarded as an essential part of the manufacturing system.

In Manchester, fifty-three per cent. of the population are under twenty years of age, and of these a very large proportion is emancipated from anything like parental or domestic control. Young persons flock to factories from the agricultural districts, allured by the rate of wages and the hope of employment. Masses of individuals are thus aggregated beyond the possible means of accommodation, and the lodging-room in which operatives and labourers of every age and sex are huddled indiscriminately together, is the only refuge for those who come in search of employment; a separate room, and often a

separate bed, is so expensive as to be beyond their means. The demand for lodgings, indeed, exceeds the supply, and residences for the poor are nowhere dearer than in Manchester. It needs no laboured deduction to show that from such a condition of society physical degradation and moral turpitude are inevitable results.

But, bad as are the lodging-rooms in Manchester, the cellars in Liverpool are infinitely worse; the rooms are badly lighted and ventilated, and sewerage and drainage are often deficient. In these cellars air and light are wholly wanting, and every fluid sinks into the earthen floor, which becomes a fount of contagion. The visitor is shocked in all his senses, and without personal observation could never have believed that human beings could exist in such dens. Some benevolent persons have recently employed a missionary, not merely to give religious instruction, but to bestow the additional consolation of sympathy on the sufferers; to enter into the history of their condition, and recommend to them the means by which they might be enabled to help themselves. The principle of this institution is, that the cravings of the heart require to be satisfied not less than the cravings of the stomach, and that moral power can reach and cure a multitude of evils to which no civil authority can extend its influence. The minister or missionary employed is, in the words of the founder, the late Dr. Tuckerman, of Boston, U.S., "to be emphatically and in all things the poor man's friend as well as his minister; and to acquaint himself not only with the mind and heart of the poor, but with all the circumstances which are exerting an influence on their hearts and character." Let us now see what is the state of the cellar residents of Liverpool as described in the report of the Rev. Mr. Johns, the first person employed by the Domestic Mission in that town:

"I have seen, what, had I not seen it, I could not have imagined. I have seen life under forms which took from it all that, in my eyes, made it happy, hopeful, or even human. I have seen life under forms which made it necessary for me to rouse up all the strength of my previous reasonings and convictions, in order to convince myself that these were really fellow-beings, going through a preparatory state of discipline, which, under the eye of an all-powerful and purely benevolent Providence, was to prepare them for 'an eternal and exceeding weight of glory.'—I am willing to believe, that the sufferings of these unfortunate beings are *unknown* in the classes of society above them. Few could have seen the scenes, which have passed under my eyes (especially during the months of the late trying winter), without feeling that the time was indeed arrived, when man should go forth to the relief or his brother. Mothers, newly become such, without a garment on their persons, and with infants nearly as naked, lying upon straw or shavings, under a miserable covering, without fire or food, or the means of procuring them; children taken from their schools, in order to earn by begging, or by something but one degree above it, a few halfpence' worth of bread for themselves and their parents; men in the prime of life, lounging at noonday across their beds, unable to procure work, and dependent upon the charity of their fellow-poor for subsistence; mothers of families only able to provide necessities for their children, by pawning their little all, or by incurring debts wherever they could be trusted; persons in fevers, whose recovery was prevented and whose weakness was prolonged, by the want of all that promotes convalescence; and infirm and aged people, who were shivering out the last hours of life in absolute want of everything that could sustain or endear it!—these are some of the shapes and shades of suffering, under which it has been the lot of your missionary to see too often our fellow-citizens and fellow-creatures, during the short period of his wanderings among them."

This picture is not overcharged: moral degradation should have been added to physical destitution; vice, in the most repulsive and loath-

some forms, is superadded to the wretchedness, which it at once depraves and aggravates. Children are born and educated in these dens; we say *educated*, because their feelings and characters are not less decisively trained and formed by the circumstances which surround them, than those of the more fortunate, who can obtain the blessings of instruction. Confined in these domiciles, compelled by sheer necessity to become the associates of vagrants, prostitutes, and delinquents, who seek shelter from society in places that society shrinks from investigating, how is it possible that these wretched beings can escape contamination?

A proof of the want of parental attention,—no matter from what cause it arises,—is the very high rate of mortality among children under two years of age in all the cotton-spinning districts. Sufficient care is not taken by the mothers either of themselves during gestation, or of the children after birth. They remain at the factories to the latest possible moment, and at the earliest after their recovery they return to the mills, leaving the children in charge of incompetent persons, older children, or wretchedly paid nurses. Not less striking is the proof of parental neglect, afforded by the number of children found straying through the streets, and restored to their parents by the exertions of the police; from recent investigations, it appears that in Manchester these amount to more than three thousand six hundred annually, or about ten a day.

Juvenile vagrancy is the direct cause of much juvenile delinquency, and in this respect it appears very questionable whether the restriction on age for employment in factories has not increased the evil. It was easy to shut out the children from the mills, but the legislature unfortunately stopped there, and made no mention of what was to be done with the children thus excluded. It is said that some of them are now working in the coal mines, until they are old enough to get admission into the factories; but a far larger number stroll about as vendors of tape, matches, sand, &c., superadding petty theft and mendicancy to their professed employments. In Liverpool matters are worse; for in that town there is very little demand for juvenile labour, and from the facilities of evasion afforded to heartless parents by the sea, there is a greater proportion than usual of children thrown upon the world to support themselves by their own resources. We do not say that factory labour should not be subject to legislative restriction and inspection; but we would wish those in authority to consider whether it might not be advisable to put restriction on the time spent in labour, rather than on the age of the child, and to exercise the most vigilant care in the inspection of the schools belonging to the factories. With all their evils, the mills are not worse places for children than the streets; and homes are out of the question; for in the lodging-rooms and cellars they could not possibly exist, even if the elder inmates permitted them to remain there.

The want of regular employment for youth, between the ages of fourteen and twenty, is another evil, which extends to many who have received all the advantages which our ordinary schools afford. Subject to no moral influence at home, or successfully resisting whatever little authority is exercised there, boys and girls soon form idle and vicious connexions, and early associate to procure for themselves the gratification of their passions. Some of them find employment as errand-boys, and continue to pick up a precarious subsistence; but the uncertainty of support derived from chance or caprice, abundance one day and starvation the next, long intervals of idleness, and a total want of restraint, necessarily leads to depravity. From

the very circumstance of their manner of living, without rule, under no authority which they respect, with no important and useful end in view, and with little or no sense of accountability, their reason and judgment become as weak and fermented as their appetites and passions are prematurely strong and importunate. The abundance of casual employment in Liverpool, compared with the amount of regular labour, is a very serious evil, and may be assumed as one of the greatest sources of delinquency. With females the case is even worse: honest employments for girls are miserably scanty, and are becoming more scarce every day. The evil has become so great, that it has arrested the attention of the most heedless and unthinking, but the wisest have not yet succeeded in devising a remedy.

Facilities to commit crime are among the greatest incentives to delinquency: "a bad watchman is the tutor of a good thief," is a homely proverb, but it is one containing much wisdom. In Manchester, property is not often left exposed, save in newly-constructed houses, from which, accordingly, great quantities of lead piping and panes of glass are constantly abstracted. In Liverpool, as we find from Mr. Rushton's evidence before the House of Commons, there is a great exposure of property on the quays around the unrivalled docks, and, as might be reasonably expected, "dock-walloping" has consequently become one of the most common cases of juvenile delinquency.

The mode in which Sunday is spent by the lower classes, appears to be a very prominent, though unsuspected source of juvenile delinquency. Some persons believe it to be their duty to legislate for the world as it ought to be, and, in the meantime, they do infinite mischief to the world as it is. Rarely has the operative an opportunity of seeing a green field, of admiring the works of creation, or even of breathing the pure air of heaven: yet, as is justly observed by the pious author of 'The Shunammite,'—"Can we view nature in any other light than that of a book of instruction presented to the sons of men, that they may learn the character of God from all its pages, and read how the earth is filled with the goodness of the Lord; that the cattle upon a thousand hills, the calm pursuits of pastoral life, and the scenes of rural peace and innocence, may serve as counteractions to the solicitations of vice, to the blandishments of sensual pleasure, and all the snares which an impure and sinful world would have laid for our souls?" Owing to the exertions of the Society for the Protection of Footpaths, the vicinity of Manchester affords the operatives means for enjoying delightful country walks, of which they avail themselves in great numbers. Liverpool wants these advantages, and its corporation offered an annual sum to the proprietors of the Botanic Gardens, on the condition of having the grounds thrown open to the public on Sunday; but, unfortunately, through the influence of some leading members, the proposition was rejected. Whether common sense may triumph on some future occasion, we cannot, of course, conjecture; but assuredly there is not a day in the week when the lower ranks of Liverpool are subjected to such corrupting influences as on the Sunday. The cause is obvious: the poor man has no home in which he can enjoy his day of rest, and abroad he has only to choose between a place of worship and the alehouse. It is very desirable that all classes should attend their religious duties; but the fact is that they do not, and that any attempt to compel them aggravates the evil. Keeping every park, garden, and place of recreation shut, will not add a single individual to the congregations in places of worship, but it fearfully augments the crowds collected

on such spots as the progress of buildings and of inclosures has yet left open: circumstances coerce the poor to join these crowds, and vice is the inevitable consequence.—"What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit, on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out?" But the cellars, the lodging-houses, the dens of vice, and the filthy haunts to which the poor are perversely confined on the Sabbath day, are infinitely worse than any pit into which a favourite animal could fall. Justly, then, may the indignant question be asked,—"How much is a man better than a sheep?"

We are no advocates for severity of punishment, yet we cannot avoid expressing a belief that delinquency is increased by the leniency notoriously shown to first offences. Prosecutors are unwilling to press the case against a child, witnesses extenuate their evidence, and, after conviction, the magistrates, in consideration of the child's years, and of his not being hardened in guilt, generally give the delinquent up to his parents—that is, to the very persons who have shown that they at least did not restrain him, if they did not directly instigate the crime. If means could be found to subject young offenders to a course of moral training, sufficiently long to eradicate the habits formed by his previous course of life, it is probable that imprisonment might become the means of reformation.

The decennial returns of the Glasgow Bridewell show that offenders committed for only a short period are almost certainly re-committed for fresh delinquencies; but, if committed for a long period, they return less frequently.

Of prisoners sentenced to 14 days confinement, there were returned for new crimes, about	75 per cent.
Of those committed for 20 days	60 ..
— 40 days	50 ..
— 60 days	40 ..
— 3 months	25 ..
— 6 months	10 ..
— 9 months	7 1/2 ..
— 12 months	4 ..
— 18 months	1 ..
— 24 months	none.

We have lightly gone over the most prominent causes of the increase of crime in the manufacturing districts. Many of them are results from the rapid accumulation of masses in a limited district beyond the means of providing them with accommodation. To this must be attributed the crowded lodging-houses, the filthy cellars, and the want of some place where the operative may take that rest, enjoy that respite from labour and that time for reflection, afforded him by the institution of the Sabbath.

It is our province to state the nature of the disease; to others belongs the office of devising remedies. Were we merely to consult popularity, we should recommend some quack nostrum, which could be administered without much trouble, and which would lead benevolent people to suppose that they were doing good, because they were doing something. Personal examination, however, has convinced us that there is no sovereign panacea for the moral, more than for the physical diseases of humanity; every individual case requires its own peculiar treatment.

The Anatomy of Suicide. By Forbes Winslow, Renshaw.

ON the subject of suicide many prejudices are abroad; and conflicting opinions circulate in the most educated circles, affecting alike the metaphysical, medical, and jurisprudential doctrines, which regulate "crown's quest" law, and are otherwise productive of much unhappiness. The announcement of an 'Anatomy of Suicide,' from the pen of a professional writer, was, therefore, one of great promise; and we are sorry to be obliged to add, that the present production falls short of its fulfilment. Upon looking into the

preface, the cause of the author's failure becomes evident. We are there told, that the nucleus of the work was an essay read before the Westminster Society, which, it is to be presumed, touched principally on the medical branch of the inquiry,—the best executed portion of the volume before us.

The favourable reception of the essay determined the writer to expand it into a substantive publication, by adding to it such information as could be collected on the other debateable points. But very rarely, indeed, does it happen that this process is felicitously carried out; its more ordinary result being to bury the three grains of original wheat, in a bushel of laboriously-collected chaff. For a due comprehension of the entire subject, the materials were not wanting. In this, as in so many other instances, the world possesses the elements of more knowledge than it is aware of: and goes on in practical ignorance and in error, for want of the leisure, or the power, to analyze and co-ordinate the facts with which it is acquainted. For the due filling up of such voids in science, mere compilation will not suffice. It requires a mind of original strength, and a thoroughly accurate training, to give the matter form. In the various arrangements which society has made with relation to suicide, the physician and the lawyer have been called on to co-operate; and with what difficulty they arrive at a mutual understanding, we have already stated—(No. 629). The merely professional man, guided only by the lights of his technical doctrines, having proved unequal to the subject, an intellect of greater range is evidently required to work out a satisfactory theory.

That the author before us has fallen short in his estimate, both of the desired information, and of the difficulty of acquiring it, is demonstrable from the very arrangement of his work. The object of his original essay, he informs us, "is to establish a fact,—as he believes, of primary importance,—that the disposition to commit self-destruction is, to a great extent, amenable to those principles which regulate our treatment of ordinary disease; and that, to a degree more than is generally supposed, it originates in derangement of the brain and abdominal viscera." In whatever degree these propositions are true, in that degree must they be taken as the nucleus of the whole inquiry. The problems to be solved are these:—Is suicide a crime? or, in other words, is suicide ever a voluntary action, influenced by ordinary motives, and subject to the ordinary responsibilities ascribed to human conduct? And, subordinate to these inquiries, is it wise, just, or humane in the legislature, to subject the act to any penal consequences?

It is clear to us that Mr. Winslow really believes the act of suicide to be, in every case, *prima facie* evidence of insanity; or, at least, that the instances in which the impulse is obeyed by a perfectly sound mind are so rare, as to be mere exceptions. It should follow, therefore, that a rigorous demonstration of this theorem should have opened the volume. If suicide be indeed a diseased overt act, and amenable to medical treatment, little reasoning will be necessary to answer the questions above stated in the negative; while no amount of legal subtlety will suffice for determining them, so long as the medical question remains undecided.

A mere glance at the table of contents will show how far the author was unaware of the real order and connexions of his subject. The following is a list of the chapters as they stand:—On the Suicides of the Ancients—Writers in defence of Suicide—Suicide a Crime against God and Man—On the Influence of certain Mental States in inducing the disposition to Suicide—Imitative and Epidemic Suicide—Sui-

cide from Fascination—On Enthusiasm and Mental Irritability leading to Suicide—Physical causes of Suicide, Moral Treatment—Physical Treatment of Suicidal Mania—Is the act of Suicide the result of Insanity?—Suicide in connexion with Medical Jurisprudence—Statistics—Appearances after Death—Singular cases of Suicide—Can Suicide be prevented by Legislative Enactments?—by Moral Instruction? It is evident (we say), on a simple inspection of this catalogue, that the author is either not aware of the *vis elenchi*, or is wanting in the power of displaying it to his readers.

Upon looking further into the work, and examining the contents of any of the separate chapters, it will also be found that there is a deficiency of clearness in presenting the specific propositions, and in working them out by proof and illustration; in so much that the entire publication must be regarded rather as a book of anecdotes thrown together without regard to method, or even to authenticity, than as a philosophical and logical treatise.

The Lasting Resentment of Miss Keaou Lwan Wang, a Chinese Tale. Translated from the original by R. Thom, Esq. Printed at the Canton Press Office. London, Ball & Co.

This little work is a literary curiosity; translated by a merchant in the few hours which could be spared from business, printed at Canton, and embellished by a Chinese artist, it would in the old days of Bibliomania have rivalled the productions of Caxton or Wynkyn de Worde. In ours, it must rest its claims on its merits as a story and popular illustration of Chinese manners. The story is simple: Miss Keaou Lwan Wang having reached mature years without a husband, is anxious to get married. While enjoying the swing in her father's garden, she is seen by a Chinese student, who breaks through the usual routine of etiquette, and makes her acquaintance. After a courtship of some length, managed by the intervention of a clever chamber-maid and complying aunt, the young couple were privately betrothed:—

"The bitterness of disappointed love rising up before his eyes, he upbraided her with change of mind, and his tears were about to flow. Lwan seeing him in this state, observed, 'I am a virtuous maiden, and you, Sir, are I believe no rake; alas! it is only because the youth possesses talent, and the fair one beauty, that we thus love, thus compassionate each other! I, having clandestinely admitted you to my apartment, now hold myself yours for ever!—and you, Sir, were you now to cast me off, would not this be a poor return for the implicit confidence I repose in you? No! you must here, in the presence of the all-seeing gods, swear to live with me as man and wife till both our heads are white with age!—if you aim at any irregularity beyond this, though you slay me, yet will I not consent!' She spoke these words with great earnestness, and had scarce finished when aunt Tsou arrived. This lady in the first instance thanked Ting Chang for the handsome present he had sent her during the day, and the young gentleman in return implored her to play the part of a go-between and marry them. He swore to be a most faithful and loving husband: and his imprecations, if false, flowed from his mouth like a torrent. Under these circumstances, aunt Tsou thus addressed them both: 'My beloved nephew and niece, since you wish that I play the go-between, you must begin by writing out conjointly, four copies of a marriage contract. The first copy we shall take and burn before Heaven and Earth, so as to call the good and evil spirits to witness what we are now about. Another copy you will leave with me the go-between, as proof, if at some future day your love towards each other should wax cold:—and each of you should preserve a copy, as a pledge that one day or another you will join the bridal cups, and go through the other forms of a regular marriage. If the woman deceive the man—may the swift lightning strike her dead! if the man deceive the woman—may unnum-

bered arrows slay his body! and further, may he or she again receive the punishment of their crime in the City of the Dead, by sinking into the hell of darkness for ever and ever!' Aunt Tsou pronounced the curse in a most solemn and touching manner, that struck awe for a moment into the hearts of both the student and Lwan; with mutual fondness, however, they set about writing out the several copies of the marriage contract, which being solemnly sworn to, they knelt in humble worship before Heaven and Earth, and afterwards returned their hearty thanks to aunt Tsou. This lady then producing rich fruits and mellow wine, pledged each of them in a cup, and wished them joy as man and wife."

They live happily for a year, interchanging copies of verses during every interval of absence, when Ting Chang is suddenly summoned to return to his family. The parting of the lovers will give our readers some idea of Chinese notions of poetical attachment:—

"Lwan herself, accompanied her lover out of the garden. There is on record, a stanza of eight lines in couplets to the following purport:—

Ting Chang. Bound together by mutual sympathy, as fish to the water, so have we been evidently created for each other!

But alas! when I think of my parents far away, I am compelled to tear myself from you!

Keaou Lwan. In the flower garden henceforward, who will look with me at the bright moon?

In the fragrant apartment from this, I care not about playing at chess!

Ting Chang. I only fear lest your person being far distant from me, your love may also grow cold!

I feel no anxiety about my literary essays not being complete, I only dread lest my happiness be not complete!

Keaou Lwan. I drop my head and speak not, but the feelings of my heart are perfectly alive to what is going on!

Tho' overcome with grief at the thoughts of parting, I perforce assume a look of content and satisfaction!

"In a moment more it was broad daylight, and the horse that was to bear the student from his bride, stood at the door ready saddled and bridled. Mr. Wang got wine ready in the inner hall, and his wife and the other ladies assembled for the stirrup cup or parting glass. Ting Chang again made an obeisance and took his leave. Lwan, finding that her grief was getting the better of her, and that she was about to burst into tears, silently stole away to her apartment, where she caught up a piece of black silk, such as is used on these occasions, and wrote thereon a verse of eight lines. This she gave to Ming hen, and desired her to wait for a favourable opportunity when Ting Chang was mounting his horse, privately to put it into his hand. The student, when on horseback, broke it open, and read as follows:—

We have grasped each other's lily hands, and sat side by side—

And now compelled to part—how can I bear up against two torrents of tears!

Before your horse, my love, shall have distanced you mournful willow—

My heart shall have gone before you, far as the white clouds beyond!

Ting Chang, seduced by a large fortune, forgets Keaou Lwan, and marries another wife. The deserted lady tries to win him back by moving letters; but the traitor is proof equally against poetry and prose, and at length sends her back the scarf which had been the first pledge of affection. Keaou Lwan Wang hereupon collects all the former letters, incloses them to the Imperial Censor, "who was traversing that part of the country, inspecting and reforming abuses," with a note stating that she intended to commit suicide, and forthwith hangs herself in the embroidered scarf. The Censor summons the deceiver to trial, and the account of the proceedings shows that an action for seduction is a very grave matter in China. The Censor committed Ting Chang to prison while he made inquiries whether the lady had really committed suicide:

"After not many days, a reply came, containing the particulars of poor Lwan's untimely end, upon which the Imperial Censor Fan had Ting Chang taken out of prison, and brought up a second time to his tribunal. The Censor in a voice of wrath thus addressed him:—'To treat with levity or insult the daughter of a mandarin of rank is one crime. Being already betrothed to one wife, marrying another is a

second crime. Having had adulterous intercourse, leading to the death of a party concerned, is a third crime. In your marriage contract it is written, "if the man deceive the woman, may unnumbered arrows slay his body!" I have now no arrows here to slay thee,—but," added he, raising his voice, "thou shalt be beat to death with staves like a dog, so that thou mayest serve as a warning to all cold-blooded villains in future!" With that he shouted with a loud voice as a signal to the bailiffs and lictors who were in waiting:—these grasping their clubs of bamboo rushed forward in a body and tumultuously struck the wretched culprit, pieces of whose body flew about the hall in all directions, and in a moment, a bloody and hideous mass marked the corpse of the betrayer of Lwan! Within the city there was not one man who did not approve of this punishment, as well merited by his former heartless cruelty. His father, Professor Chow, on hearing of this news, suddenly died of grief and indignation, and not long after, the daughter of Wei, whom Ting Chang had married, gave her hand to another. Reader! Why should he thus court the wealth and beauty of a second bride, and turn his back upon his previous oath? What really was the profit on't? There is a stanza which says—

Having become man and wife for a single night, remain man and wife for ever!

What can you expect to gain, by deceiving a tender girl's too confiding heart?

Should you say that no vengeance awaits the false and cruel lover—

Please to read this story of lasting resentment which took place in bygone years!

Though grateful to the translator for this curious little work, we wish that he had chosen a more characteristic story from the collection of Chinese Tales. The quantity of poetry, though a recommendation to Chinese scholars, must, from the obscurity of the allusions, be unintelligible to the mass of general readers.

Italy in 1839. By Frederic von Raumer.

[Second Notice.]

We shall proceed, as in our former notice, to extract such passages as refer to matters of interest less substantial than the working of codes and constitutions. Our first *sors* in the Professor's second volume turns out to be a Berlin judgment upon Alfieri, dated Florence, June 11.

"What one wants one is glad to acquire, and still more to get as a gift, without, as the proverb says, examining the mouth of the given horse too closely. The article tragedy was supplied in the literary history of Italy by certain substitutes only: Alfieri appeared and offered genuine goods, surpassing the manufacture of Hellas and Co. Is it surprising that all seized it with joy, and not only cut out the stuff to the measure of their bodies, but crept into the coat when made, or threw it over their shoulders and advanced in buskin-step against other dramatic tailors and clothiers. Our Alfieri, cry the Italians, as though afraid to say in the plural, as some other nations do, Our Alfieris. But then is Alfieri a native Italian plant, indigenous to the soil and climate? I am well aware that he was born in Italy and wrote Italian; but to me he appears to be an entirely foreign production, an exotic plant, which is tended and nursed, and is by no means thoroughly Italian, like Dante and Macchiavelli. When I made these, or similar observations to the Marchese M—, he replied that Alfieri was popular, that his tragedies drew crowded houses, and even the country people were moved to tears by them. Abbate B—, on the contrary, denied the popularity and the numerous attendance, and moreover dried the tears of the country-people. It is not my province *tantas componere lites*. The second assertion, however, appeared to me more favourable for the Italians than the first; for it would tend to prove that rhetorical hothouse tragedies are but little relished by unsophisticated tastes, and that the admiration of them is confined to the circle of æstheticising literati. When I stated as a fact, without entering into the worth or worthlessness of the opinion, that the other great poets of Italy were known and esteemed in Germany, that Goldoni was frequently represented, and even Gozzi found acceptance, but Alfieri nowhere excited admi-

ration or even interest—this fact of course served for a proof of the continuance of northern barbarism, and — insisted that in six hundred years the world will discover that Alfieri is as great a poet as Dante. What I thought on this subject I said at another time to B—, and he agreed with me that Alfieri was no poet, but only a rhetorician, who would fain have screwed himself up to a poet. At length, — and his wife admitted that Alfieri certainly was deficient in *moimento* (which I, in further discussing the subject, called the *dramatic*); but asserted that the sublimity of the language and sentiments, and the profundity of his works, much more than compensated for that deficiency. As the admirers of Alfieri find the sublime (and as an accessory and supplement, the *dramatic*) in his dry harsh rhetoric, so the admirers of the feeble Marini conceived a hundred and fifty years ago that through him beauty of very high degree was born again and revealed. The first superstition will pass away as the second has done."

Passing many valuable pages on the Tuscan *mezzadria*, or system of landlord and tenant, on the commerce, municipal regulations, &c. of the district, we arrive at Rome, where the Professor is elaborately pleasant touching the plague of vermin, and the best means of catching and disposing of the same. In a like humour, which we must confess appears to us to illustrate the well known adage "*tachant d'être vif*," the torchlight exhibition of the statues in the Vatican is commented upon by the historian of the Hohenstauffen. He was enraptured with the illumination of St. Peter's, and the grand raree-show of fireworks at the Castel St. Angelo, and thus pithily concludes his description:—

"What took place in St. Peter's itself was like what I had seen in the Lateran: ecclesiastics and soldiers, church music and military music, pope, cardinals, bishops, &c. A dragoon entangled himself in such a manner with his spurs in the robe of a bishop, that they could scarcely extricate themselves—an emblem of the confusion between church and state. At one place I was told by a soldier that I must not go any further, on account of my great coat. At the same moment a couple of dogs dashed past us into the sanctum sanctorum. It is true they had only close coats on."

The Professor holds sundry heterodox opinions as to the picturesqueness of the Campagna di Roma; but the road to Naples enchants him, and the beauties and creature comforts of that magical city—from the glorious prospect commanded by the Camaldoli, down to the "green peas, oranges, sea-fish, and oysters" of the markets—continue the fascination. The following morning-piece has a good deal of colour:—

"When I rise, about five in the morning, and step out on my balcony, the sun is already above the heights on the left of Vesuvius, and lighting up the Molo as well as the curving shore of St. Lucia. The now tranquil volcano, on the other hand, with its two heads of nearly equal height, is still enveloped in dark shade; before it, the rippling dark blue sea, above, the light azure sky; lastly, to the right of Vesuvius, the coast of Castellamare, Vico, and Sorrento, as far as the promontory of Massa. After I have refreshed and invigorated myself with this view, heat and light are shut out as much as possible, but the cool sea breeze is admitted. About eleven, the sun is already to the right, and my balcony, as well as St. Lucia, is in the shade. But now the coast, which is dark during the forenoon, is gradually flooded with the sun's rays. The white houses of the above-mentioned places appear distinctly on the horizon, above them the land clothed with verdure, and at Vesuvius, this contrasts sharply with the dark head of the mountain. The sun sinks by degrees, and that radiance which was poured forth upon sky, and earth, and sea, is succeeded by the play of colours, through every shade of red, green, and blue, till the stars, piercing through the dark mantle of night, bring this succession of beauties to a satisfactory close. On particular days, however, clouds piled upon clouds enveloped even what lies near to you. Amid thunder and lightning, and the echo of all the hills, torrents of rain descended, till the curtain be-

came more and more transparent, and the wide magic circle was again unveiled in renovated beauty to the spectator. Of oppressive heat as yet no symptom; the air lighter and more refreshing than in Rome, and no desert Campagna, no disciples of art, to compose melancholic-critical dissertations on the enjoyment of vicarious natural beauties. The people, ever gay, ever humorous, even in poverty, are a perfectly appropriate accessory that disposes me also to cheerfulness, while in Rome, ecclesiastics and monks, together with all the ruins, only serve to confirm and to render more conspicuous the grave contrast of the times."

An evening landscape by way of companion:

"I have several times taken a ride in the evening by Castell Uovo, through the Chiaja, to the grotto of Virgil, near Nisita. In comparison with this enjoyment of nature, all the collection of art appear paltry and unsatisfactory. They are shut up in houses and halls, with windows and doors—here is the dark blue sea, bearing upon its bosom the whole varied landscape, with the lighter sky for its roof. Naples, Vesuvius, the coast of Massa and Capri, form the back-ground on the other side; while the fore-ground, as viewed from the road, is of a twofold kind. On the one side, namely, the hills rise, and on the other they sink to the sea, here cut perpendicularly, there gently undulating, or having deep clefts. At one place, the unlevelled rock, with its natural curved lines, forms the foundation of the houses, at another it has been levelled, at a third heightened by masonry, at a fourth excavated, and the dwellings built in it. Among the numberless houses, not one stands upon the same level with the other, but, from the margin of the sea to the top of the hill, there they are, facing every point of the compass, each differing from the rest, without rule, law, or fixed proportion for doors, windows, stairs, roofs, piazzas, and decorations—all peculiar, individual, romantic, grotesque, arbitrary, surprising—all varied, and all attracting attention. Nothing waste, bare, withered, stunted—everywhere the most luxuriant vegetation—trees, shrubs, vines, pomegranates, oleanders, oranges, and single palms. The great bay of the sea cut out and rounded into many smaller ones; and every curve, every point of these days adorned with buildings such as I have already described, houses, loggias, lofts, staircases, balconies, and plantations. Such is the road by which you at length reach the new cut through the ridge of the hill, which separates the bay of Naples from that on the other side, and, the moment this is passed, a new and equally beautiful world bursts upon the spectator—the heights of the Camaldulences, Puzzuoli, Bajae, Ischia, Procida, Nisita, and the promontory of Misenum."

From Naples we pass into Sicily. Here the Professor seems to have been little at his ease; disappointed with the country, and impatient of travelling difficulties, to a degree hardly to have been expected from one so philosophical. After all, however, the following note, journalized in Messina, contains a fair case of grievance. We throw in the old French Count by way of compensation.

"We wish to set off this evening or early in the morning.—Impossible, because this is Sunday, and you cannot get back your passports before noon tomorrow.—We wish to have a driver to take us to Taormina and thence to Catania.—Impossible, for on account of the festival of Messina, there is not a driver to be got.—We wish to travel extra post.—Impossible, as you have not your own carriage; the post supplies none, and does not stop at Taormina.—We wish to go by steamer to Catania.—Impossible, because the steamer does not touch at Catania.—So we were obliged to stay six days in Messina, where we could have done all our business in six hours, or avail ourselves of the accidental extraordinary opportunity of a post-coach going off this evening to Catania. The ordinary one has but two places; both were engaged, and supplementary vehicles are utterly unknown here. There came with us a French count, eighty-two years old, attended by an already venerable chamber-maid, a perfect picture of the *ancien régime*. Powdered hair, large frill, ruffles, &c., and withal a man of extraordinary activity and extraordinary appetite. Yesterday even-

ing he had wrapped himself in a long and handsome morning gown, but hearing goats bleating in the street, he conceived a great fancy for some new milk. He ran, therefore, to the balcony, and bawled as loud as he could, *Capre, capre!* All eyes below were instantly upon him, and loud laughter and jokes of all sorts ensued. In his hurry, the good man had stretched out his arms, his wide morning gown followed his example, and there he stood stark-naked before the venerable public in the street, shouting for goats."

The ascent of *Ætna*, as far as the *Casa dei Inglesi*, did nothing towards restoring the historian's good temper. The following fragment of a mountain picture is graphic, and none the less so, because dashed off in a bad humour:—

"After we had seen the sun rise like a globe of fire, without the accompaniment of splendid clouds, and had viewed Sicily through the veil of misty vapour, we went to the *Valle dei Buoi*. Figure to yourself a Swiss valley, burnt up so that not a tree, not a shrub, not a blade of grass, not a drop of water, not a human being, not a house, not a brute animal, is left upon it, and you will have a picture of that valley. I wrote to you about the deserts of Radicofani and Pellegrino: they are but a thimbleful in comparison with the masses of *Ætna*. There you see at least rocks, stones, forms, colours, crystallizations; in this kitchen of the devil, on the contrary, everything appears shapeless and colourless. It is chaos, but not the undeveloped matter of all forms; it is the death of all living things; a repulsive negation of nature and of mind. Fire-worshipping naturalists may commit idolatry with these fire-vomiting mountains; to me they appear rather as vents, by which nature strives to eject excrementitious matter. Let those who please examine it, reverence it, carry it about them, like that of the Dalai Lama: it is no vocation of mine."

The Sicilian women are frightful; further, saith our Professor, the *letiga* (or sedan-like conveyance of the country) made him sea-sick; and he was glad to escape to Malta. Here a paragraph on the effects of the English spirit introduced into the island, is worth extracting:—

"Wherever the English come, idleness is driven away; but then they bring political views and parties along with them. Thoughtless, passive obedience cannot maintain itself as the sole foundation of human society; among a variety of new errors are also developed new and grand truths, and while the one assumes, or at least strives to gain, a higher position, the whole at last moves upward. Hence at this moment in Malta so many questions concerning the rights of the inhabitants, municipal regulations, appointment of natives and foreigners, grants of taxes, &c. Many may wish to consider the English as merely a voluntarily admitted garrison of their fortress, but in other respects to maintain complete independence. England can and will neither grant every thing nor refuse every thing: without England, Malta would retrograde in every respect. France possesses in Algiers a first link; whether many others will be added to it (without the utmost efforts) appears extremely doubtful. Malta is small, but more secure; it answers the proposed ends."

The pages upon the French in Naples and Queen Marie Caroline, which follow the author's return to that delightful metropolis, are beyond our power of compression. So also are the chapters on the constitution, clergy, agriculture, &c., of the kingdom; in the latter section, sulphur, of course, is not forgotten. On his return northward, the Professor passed through Bologna, Verona, &c.; but his notes do not afford us any of those passages to which, in the present examination of his letters, we have restricted ourselves. The work closes with "a general survey of Italy." Surely, this is a somewhat hazardous speculation after a few months of hasty journeying from library to library, and rather too comprehensive a subject to be dismissed in a couple of chapters. Nor is it possible to avoid surmising, that outlines hastily sketched on the spot, owe something of their filling-up to closet labours and closet speculations at Berlin.

In brief, while we bear testimony to the amount of information contained in these pages, we cannot but feel that Professor Von Raumer has, since our last acquaintance with him as a tourist, suffered, from having been looked up to and quoted as an authority far-sighted and devoid of political prejudice. He here appears to us a trifle pragmatical in his judgments; and in his personal details rather coxcombical.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

A History of British Birds, by William Yarrell, F.L.S.—We owe an apology to the writers on Natural History, for having allowed several of their recent works to remain unnoticed. In the present case we have the less cause for regret, as the merits of Mr. Yarrell are known and appreciated. This work, which has now been in progress of publication for nearly two years, will, when complete, form two beautiful octavo volumes, and be a fitting companion to the 'History of British Fishes,' by the same author (*Athen.* Nos. 463 and 465). Nothing, indeed, can exceed the beauty of many of the illustrations, which are drawn and engraved by Thompson; some of these, as the Peregrine Falcon, (vol. I. p. 40,) and the Owls, in the delicacy of the tool-work, and, at the same time, in the boldness of expression, are amongst the best woodcuts we have ever seen. In these figures, which constitute so important a part of the work, Mr. Yarrell has endeavoured to obviate, in some degree, an inconvenience, noticed in our review of his former work, by representing the larger birds on a somewhat larger scale. Thus the Golden Eagle occupies nearly a page. The accompanying text is worthy of the plates. The careful manner in which the facts relative to each species, recorded in our own or foreign periodicals, have been collected and condensed, is a pattern to our modern book-makers. We regret that Mr. Yarrell has not given a few introductory chapters on the classification of birds, and it would unquestionably have been an advantage had he noted, at the head of each description, the distinctive characters by which each bird is to be recognized at once from its congeners. Again, although it is certainly advisable to record the occasional capture, in Britain, of birds, strictly natives of other climes, we doubt the propriety of introducing these as "British Birds": for instance, the very first species figured by Mr. Yarrell is the Egyptian vulture; a bird, it is true, of very wide geographical range, but neither the circumstance of a specimen having been shot in Somersetshire, nor of Buffon having received an isolated individual from Norway, appear to us to warrant its admission into a work on British Birds.

A Manual of British Coleoptera, or Beetles, by James Francis Stephens, F.L.S.—The author of the 'Illustrations of British Entomology,' a work already extending to eleven volumes, has, in this little work, given short characters of each of the 3,462 species of beetles which inhabit this country, and which in his larger work occupy five volumes. Such an abridgement must be very acceptable to many who cannot afford to purchase the larger work, and for all ordinary purposes the short descriptions here given, will be sufficient for the identification of species. It would, however, have been an improvement to have given the sectional and generic characters in tables, and to have introduced them all together at the commencement of the volume, where they would have been more readily found, rather than scattered, as they are, throughout the work, at the head of the descriptions of the species belonging to each family. We observe various new genera and species not included in the illustrations, so that the possessor of the latter work ought also to possess the present volume; or we would suggest that such additional species and genera should be given in a future number of the 'Illustrations' by way of supplement.

The Naturalist's Library—Bees.—This volume of the series is almost entirely devoted to the honey bee of our own country, of which a satisfactory account is given, illustrated by numerous figures, chiefly copied from other works. This is succeeded by an account of the habits of the humble bee, and by descriptions of several new species of exotic bees, of which figures are also given; the work concludes

with an account of foreign honey bees. It would have rendered the volume more perfect to have given a slight sketch of the economy of all the other and numerous tribes of bees, (which are entirely omitted) and to have introduced the honey and humble bees in their systematic place in the work.

The Library of Entertaining Knowledge—Menageries, Vol. III., is devoted to the Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Tapir, Hog, Ox, Buffalo, Bison, Sheep, and Goat, the accounts of which are written in the same style as those of the preceding volumes of the quadruped series, and illustrated by copious extracts from modern and more expensive works. In a series of this nature, we should have considered that not more than four or at most five volumes, ought to have been devoted to quadrupeds. The volume is but sparingly illustrated, and some of the figures are very indifferent.

The Child's Book of Zoology, by James H. Fennell, is better than many of the works of its class, yet not so good as it ought to have been: for instance, the introduction treats only of quadrupeds, so that a child can gain no notion of the chief divisions into which animals in general are divided; and we consider that the benefit which the mind of a child derives by being imperceptibly initiated into a system of order and regularity, is too great to be lost sight of by those who write for their instruction as well as amusement. Some of the woodcuts, too, are very indifferent.

Professor Royle's Illustrations of the Botany, &c. of the Himalayan Mountains, has been brought to a close with the eleventh number, and now forms a pair of goodly quarto volumes. The concluding number contains, among other matter, a geological account of the Himalayas, a paper by the Rev. Mr. Hope, on the Entomology of India, descriptions of new insects by Mr. Westwood, Mammalogy by Mr. Ogilby, and a most admirable index to the whole work by Mrs. Royle. The value of a book containing such a store of observations upon very different subjects would have been scarcely understood in the absence of a ready means of reference; and it is difficult to speak too highly of the skill and patience with which this lady has executed her most useful but wearisome task. From the manner in which we have, on former occasions, spoken of Dr. Royle's work, it is almost unnecessary to add that it is, now that he has completed it, the most valuable account we possess of the vegetation of the North of India, and of the resources of our Indian empire generally, so far as vegetation is concerned.

Mrs. London's Gardening for Ladies, is one of those books which will teach the art of gardening, if any art can be acquired by precept; for it is full and minute in the directions it contains, and assumes that the reader is utterly ignorant of the subject of which it treats. It owes this merit to its being the production of a lady, who has herself acquired, as an amateur, the information which she proposes to impart to others; and we may add, that her directions are, in general, such as a practical gardener would convey. It may be scarcely fair to scrutinize such a book with a critical eye, especially as, in reality, it is only here and there that it requires it. We may here remark, that the statements respecting the origin of some modern Flemish or French pears, made apparently upon the authority of Dr. Van Mons, require corroboration, as they are at variance, not only with the testimony of others, but with probability; that the philosophy of manures is by no means correct; and the true cause of the difficulty of managing plants in sitting rooms is misunderstood, and consequently explained imperfectly.

Of Allard's Drawing Room Botany, with illustrations by Mrs. Perkins, we can say nothing favourable.

Logarithms to Four Places. On a card.—Logarithms to four places, as thus exhibited, are more correct than a sliding rule (unless its simple scale were three feet in length, which would make it unmanageable), and more easily used than the tables of five places, inasmuch as all the logarithms are on one side of a card, and all the anti-logarithms on the other. Such tables have been published before, but never separately, though they have been printed and circulated among astronomers privately, as being sufficient for the computations employed in the reduc-

tions of the observed places of stars to the mean. The advantage of these tables is, that whenever four figures of a result will do, the calculator is saved all the trouble of turning over leaves to look for more of the logarithms than he really wants; also, that by means of the table of anti-logarithms, the number to a logarithm is as easily found as the logarithm to a number, and by precisely the same process. A mathematical dictionary lately published in France says, that in England children are taught the sliding rule with their alphabet: we wish it were so. In the meantime, nothing is better adapted to spread a knowledge of the use of logarithms, than the publication of small tables, which, not being steam-engines of calculation, but handicraft tools, can be used by those who do not want the degree of exactness which larger tables give. The sliding rule will follow in time.

The Philosophy of Temperance, by W. M. Wooler. —Mr. Wooler here lectures the world on temperance in eating, wine-bibbing, tea-drinking, snuff-taking, smoking, and talking. It struck us as strange that he should not have given a single precept against temperance in twaddling, but on consideration his book is from beginning to end so admirable an illustration and a warning, that no mere precepts could be equally efficacious.

A Manual of the Bowels, and the Treatment of their principal Disorders, by James Black, M.D. —Of this work its author observes, "it is presumed that it contains as much science and medical observation, as will render it not unsuitable to the perusal and attention of the junior members of the profession; while to the intelligent reader it will convey that information on the structure and functions of the most important and outwardly related organs of his body, and those rules for his personal hygiene, as may be easily comprehended and practically followed." This is precisely the *juste milieu* so difficult to attain; and we fear that Dr. Black has not quite realized his own idea. There is, we apprehend, more science

than most general readers will be able properly to digest, and yet not enough of philosophy to assist in the digestion. Still the chapter on the Preservation of a Healthy State of Bowels may be perused with advantage; and in any future edition we should recommend the author to give greater extension to this portion of his work, if he desires that it should meet the wants of the non-professional public. As to the treatment of disease, we hardly think that he hopes to remove that out of the hands of the profession, otherwise we should quote against him his own words:—"It is certain that too much solicitude and attention to the wants and sensations of the digestive and assimilating organs, may lead to some of the evils which it should be the study of all to avoid. They serve to engender a concentration of nervous excitability towards the abdomen, a morbid exaggeration of common sensation, and to convert a life of healthy tone and function into one of miserable valetudinarianism."—This is a golden truth, pregnant with important consequences.

List of New Books.—Casarea; the History, &c. of the Island of Jersey, 8vo. 3s. cl.—Pauhin's History of the Reformation in Germany, &c. new edit. Vols. I. and II. 8vo. 10s. 6d. each, cl.—Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopaedia, Vol. CXXVI. 'Swainson's Taxidermy,' fc. 6s. cl.—Bull on the Maternal Management of Children, 8vo. 7s. cl.—Nicholson's Guide to Railway Masonry, 8vo. 12s. 6d. bds.—Faxon's Botanical Dictionary, 8vo. 15s. cl.—Costello's Summer amongst the Bogies and the Vines, 2 vols. 8vo. 28s. cl.—Letters from Italy to a Younger Sister, by Caroline Taylor, post 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.—Mechanics and Labourer's Guide to the United States, royal 8vo. 4s. cl.—Benevola, a Tale, fc. 3s. 6d. cl.—Queen's Survey of Africa, and Map, 8vo. 18s. cl.—Von Raumer's Italy and Italians, 2 vols. post 8vo. 21s. cl.—The Table Talker, from the Morning Post, 2 vols. fc. 12s. cl.—Sixth Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, 8vo. 6s. cl.—Mill's British India, Vol. V. 8vo. 14s. cl.—Smith's Hand Book of the Seine, 12mo. 3s. cl.—Johnson on Indigestion, 8th edit. 8vo. 6s. cl.—Donne's Devotions, new edit. fc. 8vo. 6s. cl.—Bathman's Selections from Robert Hall, fc. 8vo. 6s. 6d. cl.—The Table of the Lord, by the Author of the 'Listener,' fc. 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.—The Rev. E. Bickersteth's Scripture Help, 18th edit. fc. 8vo. 5s. cl.—Porquet's Key to Spanish Treasor, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—First Steps

to English History, square 16mo. 1s. cl.—Jerram's Child's Own Story Book, square 16mo. 3s. 6d. cl.—The Pink, with additions, by M. Howitt, square 16mo. 1s. cl.

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[ADVERTISEMENT.]—BONNECHOSE'S HISTORY OF FRANCE.—This History has been adopted by the Royal Council of Public Instruction for the use of the Normal Schools of France. The French Minister of War has also just subscribed for a large number of copies for distribution amongst the Regiments in the French service. The English translation of this popular work may be had of all Booksellers, price 7s. 6d., the two volumes of the French edition being comprised in the one of the English. C. Tilt, London.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—P. KENNEDY begs to announce that everything connected with the New Postage Rates will be found at 49, New Bond-street.—Envelopes, all sizes, 8d. per 100; Kennedy's Post-office Writing Papers, two sheets and an envelope, within a single postage; Letter Weighers from 1s.; Letter Paper, 3d. per quire, or 5s. per ream; Note Paper, 2d. per quire, or 3s. per ream; the most elegant assortment of Envelope Cases, from 5s. 6d. Name Plate elegantly engraved and 100 superfine cards printed for 5s. Blotting Books, Bibles, and Prayer Books, in plain and handsome bindings. Kennedy's fine Cumberland Lead Pencils, the best in London, 6d. each, or 4s. 6d. the dozen. To those who are about to travel he begs to offer his WRITING DESKS and DRESSING CASES. Also, Kennedy's Leather Writing Desk with Bramah Lock, 15s. 6d.; Rosewood and Mahogany Dressing Cases, with silver fittings, from 10 to 15 guineas; Brush Cases, in Russia or Morocco, fitted with three of the best brushes, 17s. 6d.; also the Portable Dressing Case at 10s. 6d.; Mahogany Writing Desks from 6s.; Rosewood Work-boxes, from 4s. 6d. to 10 guineas; Despatch Boxes, in Russia or Morocco, Russia pocket-books, spring clasp, from 2s. 3d. The very best Cutlery, comprising scissors, penknives, razors, table cutlery; a large variety of Inkstands. Dressing-cases repaired and re-fitted.—F. Kennedy's Dressing-case Manufactory, 49, New Bond-street.

METEOROLOGICAL JOURNAL for JULY, kept by the Assistant Secretary, at the Apartments of the Royal Society,
BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL.

1840.	9 o'clock, A.M.			3 o'clock, P.M.			Dew Point at 9 A.M., deg. Fahr.		Diff. of Wet and Dry Bulb Thermometer.		External Thermometers.				Rain in inches. Lead off at 9 A.M.	Direction of the Wind at 9 A.M.	REMARKS.
	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Barometer uncorrected.		Att. Ther.	Fahrenheit.	Self-registering	Fahrenheit.								
	Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.		Flint Glass.	Crown Glass.				9 A.M.	3 P.M.	Lowest	Highest					
JULY.																	
W 1	29.922	29.916	65.5	29.846	29.840	66.0	58	07.1	62.0	65.2	52.4	68.2	.133	S	Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Overcast.		
T 2	29.774	29.768	63.7	29.728	29.722	65.9	58	05.8	61.2	63.7	59.6	66.6		SE	{ A.M. Overcast—light rain—brisk wind throughout the night. P.M. Overcast—light wind. Ev. Slight rain.		
F 3	29.540	29.532	64.4	29.534	29.530	65.9	58	05.2	58.8	62.9	56.5	66.5	.033	W	{ A.M. Overcast—light rain and wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Overcast—light wind.		
S 4	29.878	29.874	81.5	29.902	29.896	67.5	54	09.0	61.3	67.4	53.7	69.2	.080	W	{ A.M. Fine, cl. and wind. P.M. City—brisk wind. Ev. The like.		
© 5	29.732	29.728	72.0	29.706	29.700	66.4	56	08.7	63.3	63.4	58.7	68.6		W	{ A.M. Cloudy—brisk wind throughout the night. P.M. Overcast—brisk wind, with showers. Evening, Fine and starlight.		
M 6	29.810	29.804	68.0	29.686	29.678	66.9	55	07.5	62.6	63.8	53.3	75.3	.016	S var.	{ Cloudy—brisk wind throughout the day. Ev. Light rain—high wind.		
T 7	29.634	29.630	77.2	29.706	29.698	65.8	55	07.5	59.7	64.6	50.6	71.7	.138	W	{ A.M. Dark heavy clouds—brisk wind, with light showers. P.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. Evening, Overcast.		
W 8	29.822	29.816	64.8	29.780	29.772	64.7	55	07.1	61.2	62.7	53.8	66.3	.025	SW	{ A.M. Cloudy—light wind. P.M. Light rain and wind. Ev. Overcast—heavy rain.		
T 9	29.878	29.872	69.0	29.956	29.948	64.9	53	07.1	59.4	65.7	51.3	67.3	.500	NW	{ A.M. Overcast—light wind and showers. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Evening, Fine and starlight.		
F 10	29.996	29.988	64.2	29.960	29.952	63.9	53	05.9	60.3	62.0	51.3	67.7		W	{ A.M. Cloudy—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds. Ev. Cloudy.		
S 11	30.002	29.998	75.0	29.976	29.970	65.2	54	08.3	60.2	62.3	52.6	66.8		NW	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Ev. The like.		
© 12	30.012	30.004	72.4	29.982	29.974	64.8	53	08.0	58.3	61.7	52.2	69.2		NW	{ A.M. Fine—lt. clouds & wind. P.M. Cloudy—lt. wind. Ev. The like.		
M 13	30.012	30.004	68.3	30.088	30.080	62.9	53	05.9	55.7	59.5	49.4	62.7		NW	{ A.M. Cloudy—light wind. P.M. Light rain and wind. Evening, Fine and moonlight.		
○ T 14	30.316	30.310	71.2	30.294	30.286	63.7	50	07.1	59.4	68.7	50.2	70.5		SW	{ Fine—light clouds and wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine and moonlight.		
W 15	30.304	30.300	79.9	30.220	30.212	65.8	54	09.0	63.7	72.3	57.0	77.2		S	{ Fine—nearly cloudless, with light breeze throughout the day. Evening, Fine and moonlight.		
T 16	30.152	30.148	70.7	30.026	30.018	67.2	56	09.3	66.5	72.4	56.0	74.3		S	{ Cloudy—light breeze throughout the day. Evening, The like.		
F 17	29.998	29.992	75.7	29.926	29.918	67.3	55	08.3	62.7	67.7	52.8	74.6		SW var.	{ Fine—light clouds and breeze throughout the day. Ev. Overcast.		
S 18	29.778	29.772	64.4	29.784	29.776	66.2	60	05.1	63.7	65.5	58.0	69.7		W	{ A.M. Lightly overcast—light breeze, with very fine rain. P.M. Overcast. Evening, The like.		
© 19	29.700	29.694	66.3	29.622	29.618	68.2	60	06.1	63.7	69.0	58.7	68.6		S	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—lt. rain—high wind.		
M 20	29.566	29.560	68.3	29.548	29.544	67.3	58	07.1	63.3	65.8	53.2	70.0	.091	S var.	{ A.M. Cloudy—light wind, with occasional showers. P.M. Cloudy—brisk wind. Evening, Fine and moonlight.		
T 21	29.630	29.626	76.2	29.660	29.652	67.8	59	07.6	63.7	61.7	55.3	76.0	.066	W var.	{ A.M. Fine—light clouds—brisk wind. P.M. Overcast—light rain. Evening, Fine and starlight.		
W 22	29.820	29.816	66.2	29.858	29.850	66.6	56	05.4	61.4	65.8	52.7	70.2	.305	W	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Evening, Fine & starlight.		
T 23	30.032	30.024	62.8	30.056	30.048	64.0	52	06.2	59.7	60.2	53.5	72.4		W	{ A.M. Cloudy—very slight rain early. P.M. Cloudy—light wind. Evening, Overcast.		
F 24	30.066	30.058	65.0	30.014	30.006	64.5	54	07.6	61.7	64.7	55.0	64.5		S	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—brisk wind.		
S 25	29.814	29.806	62.6	29.772	29.764	66.0	58	05.0	60.3	66.0	58.5	67.4	.016	S	{ A.M. Overcast—high wind—rain early—high wind throughout the night. P.M. Slight rain. Evening, The like.		
© 26	29.694	29.688	63.0	29.696	29.690	64.0	56	04.4	58.8	60.0	56.3	70.2	.291	SE	{ A.M. Lightly overcast—heavy rain during the night. P.M. Overcast—light rain. Evening, Overcast—light showers.		
M 27	29.956	29.950	64.0	29.958	29.950	65.0	58	06.9	61.0	70.2	55.3	62.4	.105	NW	{ A.M. Overcast—light wind. P.M. Fine—light clouds and wind. Evening, Fine and starlight.		
● T 28	30.084	30.076	63.2	30.106	30.098	65.7	57	05.0	61.7	69.7	55.6	71.4		S	{ A.M. Overcast—lt. wind. P.M. Fine—lt. clouds & wind. Ev. Cloudy.		
W 29	30.260	30.256	78.3	30.234	30.228	67.7	57	08.4	64.7	69.6	60.2	71.8		NW	{ A.M. Fine—nearly cloudless—lt. breeze, P.M. Cloudy. Ev. Overcast.		
T 30	30.148	30.140	67.2	30.098	30.090	68.6	61	05.6	65.4	70.9	60.2	72.0		SSW	{ Cloudy—light wind throughout the day. Ev. Overcast—slight rain.		
F 31	34.210	30.204	72.5	30.212	30.204	69.4	60	07.3	62.3	66.7	58.7	73.2	.016	NW	{ Fine—light clouds & wind throughout the day. Ev. Fine & starlight.		
MEAN.	29.921	29.915	69.1	29.901	29.894	66.0	56	06.9	61.5	65.5	54.9	69.8	Sum.	1.815	Mean Barometer corrected	{ 9 A.M. 3 P.M. F. 29.817 .. 29.805 C. 29.810 .. 29.797	

Note.—The daily observations are recorded just as they are read off from the scale, without the application of any correction whatever.

THOUGHTS OF THE BLIND.

The Old Florist.

Where are ye, blessed flowers?
A cloud on every blossom lies,
Along the lawn the day-spring dies,
And heaven in anger lours;
Oh! never more to these dim eyes
The beauty of your bloom shall rise,
When, breathing soft as Seraph sighs,
Ye close at even hours!

Sweet odours haunt me still;
A rapture, hidden but intense,
And springing from a twofold sense,
Through every pulse doth thrill:
Where lifts the broom its golden sheaves
I hear the rustling of the leaves,
Till, like the spray the fountain weaves,
Strange tears mine eyelids fill.

Where shall we meet again,
Oh! Chasteners of the spirit's eye?
Where tears are at their fountain dry,
And life hath no more pain;
Where not as here ye drooping lie,
Nor breathing wake, yet wake to die,
Like hearts that break at memory's sigh
To find their homage vain.

Your beauty hath not fled!
Though light from these dull orbs hath flown,
The sightless pilgrim not alone
His tears like dew shall shed.
He hears your light leaves' breezy tone,
Whose sweets around his path have grown,
And while ye breathe will never own
The soul of feeling dead.

There is a heavenward shore
Which troubled waters never lave;
There shall your beauty bloom and wave,
And, blooming, fade no more;
There yearning love shall cease to crave,
And in a world beyond the grave
Shall turn from ye to Him who gave,
To worship and adore.

The Maid to her Lover.

Oh! cease, in pity plead no more,
Too much I fear thy vows' prevailing;
The fount of grief is gushing o'er,
Although no tears these lids are veiling:
Even while those drops—the deepest—slowest,
Locked in my breast, thou canst not see,
Forlorn I must be, well thou knowest,
And blind to all—save love and thee!

Then cease—oh cease!—no more pursuing
Fancied joys that end in woe;
Believe me callous to thy suing,—
Would thy thought could make me so!
Say I am heartless—hearts are riven;
Call me cold—even that may be;
Heartless I am—for mine is given,
And cold to all—save love and thee!

But were this darkness passed away
Which checks the flow of youthful feeling,
And in the dawn of life's blest day
Others as fond were round me stealing;
Then, though their truth had chased my night,
I'd rest me here, whence now I flee,
And living only in thy light
Be dead to all—save love and thee!

ELEANORA LOUISA MONTAGU.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

WE have this week received the Prospectus of another Publishing Society, about to be established in Dublin, for the purpose of collecting and printing rare works or documents illustrative of the History and Antiquities of Ireland. There ought to be no reasonable doubt of the success of such a project, which has, indeed, already received the sanction and support of many distinguished persons. Yet there are some of the regulations of which we cannot approve. For example, the number of Members is to be limited to three hundred; and it is further declared, that the books published by the Society shall not be sold to the public. Now, we can understand

that a restriction as to the sale might be judicious, as tempting many persons to come in at once and subscribe, and thus help forward the project; but why limit the numbers, and require each new subscriber to pay Four Pounds as an entrance fee? However, these regulations are at present mere suggestions, and are, therefore, open to consideration.—Another work of interest, in reference to the sister kingdom, is 'Ireland, its Scenery, Character,' &c., by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall. This is to appear in monthly numbers, to be illustrated with maps, engravings on steel, and wood engravings, sufficiently numerous to enable the artist to give every object which can be considered as peculiarly Irish, from the Mether and the Quern to the ordinary furniture of the peasant's cabin.

The discovery of Dr. Berres seems daily to obtain further development. We have this week received from Mr. Longbottom, the secretary of the Polytechnic Institution, a print from a Daguerrotypes, which is certainly far superior in power to any we have yet seen, although there are some obvious defects, of which there is no trace in the beautiful shadow, if we may so call it, forwarded to us from Vienna. Both may be seen at our office.

Now that the Exhibitions are closed, and the last Academy dinner eaten, much of the interest which attaches to Art is for awhile at an end. However, let us mention what we hear: that Mr. Martin is busy with a new commission in his own style, a 'Pandemonium'; and that Sir David Wilkie is on the eve of departure for the Holy Land, for new subjects, new scenery, and new costumes. Mr. David Roberts, it is said, has had some influence in urging Wilkie to this trip. What effect a new country will produce on his painting, it is difficult to imagine: all must recollect the change wrought by his visit to Spain: he there for a time forsook what Hazlitt, with more ill-nature than propriety, called "his pauper style;" forgot his old rivals, Teniers and Ostade, and devoted himself to the study of Velasquez and Murillo, and the higher names in pictorial art. But he is now off to a country where art is not, and where as yet the landscape painter has alone been.

Letters from Rome state, that there have been recently discovered, in the Canalese Library of that city, two unpublished Treatises by Thomas Aquinas—the one entitled '*De Adventu, Statu et Vita Anti-Christi*,' and the other explaining the mysteries of the Apocalypse, under the title, '*De Judicio Finali*.'

The Tomb of Virgil, as it is called, at Pausilippo, as most of our readers know, and many have seen, is a mere ruin in the midst of a vineyard, and all traces of its architectural character, if it ever possessed any, and of its cinerary urns, are gone, as well as the laurel said to have been planted by Petrarch. We now learn from Naples, that M. Eichhoff, librarian to the Queen of the French, desirous of consecrating the spot by a monument of his own, has obtained permission to erect there a column of white marble, shadowed by a laurel, on which he is to have inscribed the epitaph commonly attributed to the poet himself:—

Mantua me genuit, Calabri rapuere; tenet nunc
Parthenope: cecini pascua, rura, duces.

A Correspondent has obligingly sent us an account of the restoration of an interesting picture of the Byzantine school, preserved in the Cathedral at Malta. It is no doubt the St. Paul, referred to by a former Correspondent (No. 550):—"The destructive inroads of the worm on one of the finest specimens of the Byzantine school of painting of the twelfth century, which has long existed in one of the chapels of the Cathedral Church of S. Giovanni imperiously called for immediate repair. The picture was placed in the old Cathedral in 1429, and at different subsequent periods was painted over, in the barbarous days of the arts, by thick layers of oil colours, to which wealthy ignorance added a covering or dress of wrought silver, leaving the head and hands alone visible. M. Giuseppe Hyzler having been charged with its repair, succeeded in removing the superincumbent coats of paint, and exposing to view the original painting. This picture is painted *à tempera* on wood, measures 7 feet by 4½ feet, and represents the apostle Paul. The figure, which is larger than life, is seated, holding a sword in the right hand, and the volume of the Gospels in the left,—the seat or pulpit, representing ideal work of

many colours, is faulty in its perspective. The field, or groundwork of the picture, is a gold brocade, and the glory round the Saint's head is of gold, according to the manner adopted by Giotto and his school. The upper part of the dress, and the sleeves, are bordered by raised work in gold, as was practised up to the end of the fifteenth century. The dress is of a brown-red colour, the cloak blue lined with green: both are ornamented with gold flowers, and bordered with gold fringe."

A letter addressed by M. Theodore Pavie, a distinguished Oriental scholar, now travelling in India, to M. Garcin de Tassy, was recently read at the Academy of Inscriptions, in which he mentions having transmitted home, through the Minister of Marine, a work on the Guzerat and Mahratta dialects. "The grammar of these languages," he says, "nearly identical with that of the Hindostanee, seems to have been derived from the latter, which has apparently been the first formed, as the Hindú succeeded to the Sanscrit." A *Mémoire* on the *Parsee* has likewise been received from this young *savant*; and he announces as about to follow, an account of two excursions made by him to the Pagodas of Chillamboram and Tivericary,—the one south and the other north-west of Pondicherry,—accompanied by drawings and translated inscriptions.

The abuses of the press in Copenhagen are stated, in letters from that capital, to have led to a new and curious species of fetter, of which we, in this country, can read with great composure, from its utter inapplicability to a land of private expresses and public railroads. Several of the metropolitan journals having, it appears, been ten and twelve times convicted in the space of three or four months, a decree has been issued, adding a supplementary punishment to those which the law already inflicts. Every periodical which shall henceforth be condemned, is to forfeit, for ever, the privilege of conveyance by the mails, and be left to the transport of the *Pakkeposterne* (Parcels'-Posts). These latter conveyances travel at about the speed of a wagon in England; so that till the taste for antiquity shall extend itself to what is emphatically called *news*, the effect of this prohibition will be to confine the circulation of the condemned paper within the limits of the town where it is published. This, in a country like Denmark, whose most populous towns (the capital excepted) do not reckon more than from 5 to 8,000 inhabitants, is an ingenious and effectual method of preventing whatever in that northern land may be held as constituting offences of the press, for no journal under such circumstances could defray the expense of publication.

The musical news from Paris during the last fortnight might be packed away in a nut-shell—the most showy item being the production of a *pasticcio* at the Opéra Comique, '*L'Opéra à la Cour*,' in which the music has been selected from composers ancient and modern, on the comprehensive principle of the minstrel of the 'Groves of Blarney'—the most sterling item being the new march and funeral anthem, by M. Berlioz, performed at the recent July fêtes. Some of the French paragraph-makers are in raptures with the fine voice and good style of Miss Delcy, who is now in Paris—not, we hope, to be lost to London; others are in amazement that the English are sufficiently advanced to have understood and felt the music of Gluck's '*Iphigenie*.'

The following is from a correspondent:—"Schwerin, July 13th.—At length I have found a moment to tell you what we have been doing here: and to assure you, on the part of all Schwerin, that the excitement produced by the Musical Festival is something quite unprecedented,—at all events, it is not to be described; and I know not how the town will ever settle itself again into the routine of everyday life. It began on Wednesday last (the 12th) by the performance of 'St. Paul,' in the Domkirche: the orchestra was made up of about five hundred performers, conducted by Mendelssohn, and led by David, who had accompanied him from Leipsic. Mademoiselle Löwe took the principal soprano part: and save for an unfortunate sharpness of intonation, which though slight, continued throughout the morning, sung her music very well. Mantius, the tenor, who, like the lady, comes from Berlin, was exquisite: particularly in the lovely air 'Be thou faithful unto death,' with its violoncello obligato accompaniment: but alas for the 'St.

Paul! the part being given over to a bass singer, Reichel, who, to my thinking, sang very ill. He has a deep voice it is true, but neither meaning nor expression, and yet he is not without a reputation in these parts. The oratorio, however, as a whole, went off excellently, and excited an extraordinary sensation. A public supper was given in the evening, of which Mendelssohn was the hero; and at which he was crowned with wreaths and flowers, after the enthusiastic German fashion. To me the wonder and delight was to see one so deservedly celebrated and courted bear his honours so modestly. On the Thursday afternoon a concert took place in the theatre—not, however, a London concert, with its twenty-five pieces of music: the programme is easily given. *First Part.* Overture to 'Euryanthe,' an air from the 'Pré aux Clercs,' sung by Mdle. Löwe, and accompanied obligato by David, which was *encored*; a concerto for two clarinets by Herrn Eichhorst and Lappe, a pair of Schwerin artists, might have been dispensed with. The first part closed with 'Vivi tu,' sung by Mantius. *Second Part.* An air by Faccioli, sung by Reichel: then a new MS. violin concerto by David, in D. This is a splendid composition, the finale, in particular, which is full of genius and brilliancy: he intends playing it at the Philharmonic next year—it will be certain of success. An air of Reissiger's, was sung by Herr Böttcher, a bass singer, both the composition and the performance bad. Mendelssohn then played his first concerto most admirably: he had but an indifferent piano by Graf, but he made the most of it. By way of finish to the second part, the everlasting duet from the 'Puritani,' was given.—*The Third Part* consisted of Beethoven's symphony in A.—The third day's performance was the 'Creation,' given at the Domkirche, and with the same solo singers. It did not go quite so well as the 'St. Paul.'—This morning, Mendelssohn and David set off homewards. The days of feasting are over, and the blank is awful."

BRITISH INSTITUTION, PAUL MALL.

THE GALLERY, with a Selection of PICTURES by ANCIENT MASTERS, of the Italian, Spanish, Flemish, Dutch, and English Schools, including ONE ROOM of the WORKS of the late WM. HILTON, Esq. R.A., Keeper of the Royal Academy, is OPEN from 10 a.m. to 5 in the Morning till 6 in the Evening.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s.

WILLIAM BARNARD, Keeper.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.

The Two Pictures now exhibiting represent the CORONATION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA in Westminster Abbey, and the Interior of the CHURCH of SANTA CROCE, at Florence, with all the effects of Light and Shade, from Noon till Midnight. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 in the Morning till 6 in the Evening.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 1s.

N.B.—The Picture of SANTA CROCE will shortly be removed, and replaced by a subject of great interest.

THE INFANT SAPHO, LOUISA VENNING, *Three and a Half Years of Age*.—This wonderful specimen of native talent has been listened to with acknowledged delight by their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Augusta, and a great part of the Nobility. Under command of Her Majesty she is to be introduced at the Palace. The most eminent Professors have afforded unqualified admiration of her Musical Talent. This beautiful little girl will take a principal part in a Musical Melange of two acts, in which her Father, Sister, Mr. W. H. Adams, and other members of their Royal Highnesses' household, will take part. Between the acts, the Oxy-hydrogen Microscope will have its vast powers exhibited on the most interesting objects of the season. The Musical Melange will commence on Wednesday next, 7th. Amusements, at 8 precisely, and finish at 10 o'clock. Doors open at Half-past Seven; to be continued for a fortnight, on alternate Evenings.—Admission to the body of the theatre, 2s.; to the gallery, 1s.

The Morning Exhibitions, with 100 interesting Scientific Works, and its varied Experiments and Amusements, together with the Alpine Singers, are continued as usual.—Admission, 1s.—Polytechnic Institution, 380, Regent-street.

THE ROYAL GALLERY OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE, ADELPHI STREET, LONDON (W.).—Mr. E. M. Clarke will deliver Lectures on Polarized Light, illustrated by new and interesting objects and apparatus, on Tuesdays and Saturdays; the Oxy-hydrogen Microscope will be exhibited by him twice daily, by means of which many new and interesting objects will be shown. Among the novelties are Mr. Dredge's Suspension Bridge, illustrated by apparatus and models for showing the principle of the improvement; Delbriek's Process for uniting Metals, Marshall's Sash Fastenings, J. S. Worth's Rotatory Pump, &c. &c. The Steam-Gun, Electrical Eel, and extensive apparatus for showing Electrical and Magnetic Phenomena. The Steam Engine and its principles illustrated by Working Models and explained. A daily Performance on the Accordion by M. V. Reissner, from Paris.—Admission, 1s.—Open till six daily.

ROYAL SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, MONDAY, TUESDAY, and THURSDAY, August 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

GRAND PROMENADE MUSICALE ET CHAMPETRE.—Programme: First Part. Overtures—Egmont (first time) and the Dragon Fight. Quadrille—St. Petersburg (first time). Fantasia from Oberon. Waltz—Die Bergsteiger (first public performance). Melange des Danes. Pas des Nations (from Le Corsaire), introducing the Bolero, Tyrolienne, Quadrille, and Tarantella. Pas Redoublé (MS.).—Second Part: Beethoven's Grand Battle Symphony, by the augmented Band, with novel effects and introductions—Cavatina e Coro—Casta Diva, from Norma (first time this season). Morsard's New Quadrille—La Chasse (first time in England). Overture—Gaiety. Tell Galop—Benyowsky. The animated illustration of the Adventures of an Exploring Party in the Northern Sea! The whole Gardens brilliantly illumined with one light by Carter's amazing 'Koniphosic.' The Eruption of Hecla, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s. Feeding hour five o'clock.

COLOSSEUM, REGENT'S PARK.

OPEN DAILY, from Ten till Six, without extra charge. PHILIP'S NEW PICTURE OF THE ANGLO-CHINESE COTTAGE, at MALACCA. Selection of Music, by Mr. Varn, the celebrated Organist of the Temple, on Myer's grand double Eolophon, between the hours of two and four. The celebrated Panorama of London. The Saloon of Arts and Sculpture Gallery. Gallery, Ball, and Cross of St. Paul's. Admission, 1s.—The Swiss Cottage, Conservatories, Morning Picture of the Lake of the Four Cantons. Admission, 1s.—Taylor's Magnetic Engine, and choice Collection of Naval and other Models. Admission, 1s.

SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY

ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY.

June 12.—The following papers were read:—

1. Continuation of the Investigation for the correction of the Elements of the Orbit of Venus, by Mr. Glashier, of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.—This paper is a continuation of Mr. Main's investigations, already communicated to the Society, and printed in the Memoirs.

2. 'An Account of some Experiments made with an Invariable Pendulum, at the Cape of Good Hope,' by T. Maclear, Esq.—When Mr. Maclear was appointed Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope, he was desirous of repeating the experiments there with an invariable pendulum; but it was some time before he had sufficient leisure to prosecute this measure. The pendulum had been previously swung in London by Mr. Bailey, and also after its return to this country. The method of proceeding in such cases is so similar, and has been so often described, that it is unnecessary to enter further on that part of the subject. The result of these experiments shows that, on the assumption that the pendulum made 86400 vibrations in London, in a mean solar day, at the temperature of 65° in *vacuo*, and at the mean level of the sea, it made only 86332.92 vibrations, under the same circumstances, at the Cape of Good Hope; which is almost identical with the experiments of Mr. Fallow, and differing very little from the experiments of Captains Foster and Freycinet. A new pendulum, consisting of a thick brass bar, without any bob, and furnished with four knife edges, is about to be forwarded to Mr. Maclear, which he proposes to swing at the principal stations of the triangulation that is now carrying on in that country.

3. 'An Account of some Experiments made with three Invariable Pendulums, by Lieut. Murphy, R.E., during the late Expedition down the Euphrates,' by Mr. Bailey.—When Colonel Chesney undertook the expedition down the Euphrates, three invariable pendulums were placed under his care, for the purpose of their being swung at positions more inland than had been hitherto practised. Two of these pendulums (iron and copper) belonged to this Society, and the other (brass) to the Admiralty; and they are the same that were taken out by the late lamented Capt. Foster. They had been previously swung in this country, before the expedition just mentioned, by Mr. Bailey, and also subsequent thereto. Only two places presented favourable opportunities for swinging these pendulums during the expedition: the first, at Port William, near Bir, on the Euphrates; and the other, at Bussora. The experiments were made by Lieut. Murphy, and were conducted with his usual caution and ability: the details are recorded in printed skeleton forms, with which he was furnished previous to his departure; but none of the computations were made till after Lieut. Murphy's decease. The reductions have since been made by Mr. Bailey, on the same data as those already mentioned in the seventh volume of the Memoirs of this Society. On the assumption that each of these pendulums made 86400 vibrations in a mean solar day in London, at the temperature of 62° in *vacuo*, and at the mean level of the sea, it is found that they respectively made the following number of vibrations at the two stations above mentioned, viz:

Pendulum.	Port William.	Bussora.
Brass	86340.66	86313.90
Copper	86341.30	86317.96
Iron	86338.96	86317.66
Mean =	86340.31	86318.20

4. 'The Elements of the Annular Eclipse of the Sun that will happen on October 8th, 1847,' by Mr. George Innes.—These elements have been deduced from Carlini's 'Solar Tables' (1832), and Burckhardt's 'Lunar Tables' (1812). The time of apparent conjunction in right ascension at Greenwich will be October 8^d 19^h 28^m 36^s.593; at which time the

sun's apparent semidiameter will be 16' 2".529, and the moon's augmented semidiameter, 14' 43".968.

5. 'On the Comparison of the Neapolitan Standard Yard with the Standard Yard of this Society,' by Mr. Simms.—The Neapolitan Government having directed Mr. Simms to construct a new standard scale, on a principle similar to that which was made for this Society, the object of the present communication was to place on record the results of the comparisons that were made with the centre yards of each scale. It appears, that 215 comparisons were made on nine several days by three different persons; and the mean of the whole showed that the centre yard of the Neapolitan scale was longer than the standard yard of the Society's scale, by .0002680 of an inch. This new scale is marked No. 6; it being the sixth scale of this construction that has been made.

6. 'On the difference of Longitude between the Observatories of Madras and the Cape of Good Hope, deduced from Moon-culminating stars,' by T. Maclear, Esq.—The observations extend from February 19, 1834, to October 10, 1837, both inclusive, and contain all the corresponding observations within that period, except two which appear to be erroneous; and amount to seventy in number. Of these, only three were of the second limb. The result of the whole shows that the difference of longitude is 4^h 7^m 1.57, with a probable error of $\pm 0^s.53$.

CENTRAL SOCIETY OF EDUCATION.—June 24.—

T. Wyse, M.P., in the chair.—An account was given of the Method of Instruction pursued in the Boston (U.S.) Institution for the Blind, extracted from the official Reports of the Trustees for 1839 and 1840. The Institution contains sixty-five pupils. The children are employed in making mattresses, cushions, mats, brushes, baskets, and purses. The general rule is, that each pupil shall devote a part of every day to study, the subjects being reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and grammar, a part to music, and part to manual labour. Some learn algebra and geometry, in which it is said that the blind greatly delight, and three have made considerable progress in Latin and Greek. A gymnasium, provided with a bowling alley, is frequented by every boy twice a day, and during the warm weather they bathe daily in the sea, and many of them have learned to swim. Some interesting particulars are given of the extraordinary case of Laura Bridgman, incidentally mentioned, we believe, in this Journal some twelve months since, who is deaf, dumb, and blind, and has scarcely any sense of smell. In a psychological point of view this case is so interesting, that we are glad to hear that careful observations have been made, with a view to ascertain the order of development and the peculiar character of her intellectual faculties. The result will probably be made public; in the meantime, we shall quote Dr. Howe's account of her intellectual progress.

Laura Bridgman is thirteen years old, and has been about two years in the establishment.—"Having mastered the manual alphabet of the deaf mutes, and learned to spell readily the names of everything within her reach, she was then taught words expressive of positive qualities, as hardness, softness; and she readily learned to express the quality, by connecting the adjective hard or soft with the substantive; though she generally followed what one would suppose to be the natural order in the succession of ideas, placing the substantive first. It was found too difficult, however, then to make her understand any general expression of quality, as hardness, softness, in the abstract. Indeed, this is a process of mind most difficult of performance to any, especially to deaf mutes. One of her earliest sentences after learning the adjectives was this—she had found the matron ill, and understood that her head pained her, so she said, 'Smith head sick—Laura sorry.' Next she was put to the positive expression of relation to place, which she could understand. For instance, a ring was taken and placed on a box, then the words were spelt to her, and she repeated them from imitation. Then the ring was placed on a hat, and a sign given her to spell, she spelt, *ring on box*—but being checked, and the right words given, she immediately began to exercise her judgment, and, as usual, seemed intently thinking. Then the same was repeated with a bag, a desk, and a great many other

things, until at last she learned that she must name the thing on which the article was. Then the same article was put into the box, and the words ring in box given her; this puzzled her for many minutes, and she would make mistakes; for instance, after she had learned to say correctly whether the ring was on or in a box, a drawer, a hat, a bucket, &c., if she were asked where is house, or matron, she would say in box. Cross questioning, however, is seldom necessary to ascertain whether she really understands the force of the words she is learning, for when the true meaning dawns upon her mind, the light spreads to her countenance. In this case the perception seemed instantaneous, and the natural sign by which she expressed it was peculiar and striking: she spelt *o n*, then laid one hand on the other; then she spelt *i n t o*, and enclosed one hand within the other. Some idea of the difficulty of teaching her common expressions, or the meaning of them, may be formed from the fact that a lesson of two hours upon the words *right* and *left* was deemed very profitable, if she in that time really mastered the idea. No definite course of instruction can be marked out, for her inquisitiveness is so great, that she is very much disconcerted if any question which occurs to her is deferred until the lesson is over. It is deemed best to gratify her, if her inquiry has any bearing on the lesson; and often she leads her teacher far away from the objects he commenced with. * * In her eagerness to advance her knowledge of words and to communicate her ideas she coins words, and is always guided by analogy. Sometimes her process of *word-making* is very interesting; for instance, after some time spent in giving her an idea of the abstract meaning of *alone*, she seemed to obtain it, and understanding that being *by one's self* was to be alone, or *at-one*. She was told to go to her chamber, or school, or elsewhere, and return *alone*; she did so, but soon after wishing to go with one of the little girls, she strove to express her meaning thus, *Laura go al-ivo*. The same eagerness is manifested in her attempts to define for the purpose of classification: for instance, some one giving her the word *bachelor*, she came to her teacher for a definition, she was taught that men who had wives were *husbands*, those who had none *bachelors*; when asked if she understood, she said '*man no have wife-bachelor—Tenny bachelor*,' referring to an old friend of hers. Being told to define *bachelor*, she said '*bachelor, no have wife, and smoke pipe*.' Thus she considered the individual peculiarity of smoking in one person as a specific mark of the *species bachelor*. * * She easily acquired a knowledge and use of active verbs, especially those expressive of *tangible action*, as to walk, to run, to sew, to shake. At first, of course, no distinction could be made of mood and tense, she used the words in a general sense, and according to the order of her *sense of ideas*; thus, in asking some one to give her bread, she would first use the word expressive of the leading idea, and say '*Laura, bread, give*.' * * Having acquired the use of substantives, adjectives, verbs, prepositions, and conjunctions, it was deemed time to make the experiment of trying to teach her to *write*, and to show her that she might communicate her ideas to persons not in contact with her. It was amusing to witness the mute amazement with which she submitted to the process, the docility with which she imitated every motion, and the perseverance with which she moved her pencil over and over again in the same track, until she could form the letter. But when at last the idea dawned upon her, that by this mysterious process she could make other people understand what she thought, her joy was boundless. Never did a child apply more eagerly and joyfully to any task than she did to this, and in a few months she could make every letter distinctly, and separate words from each other. * * She has the same fondness for dress, for ribbons, and for finery as other girls of her age; and as a proof that it arises from the same amiable desire of pleasing others, it may be remarked that whenever she has a new bonnet or any new article of dress, she is particularly desirous to go to meeting, or to go out with it. If people do not notice it, she directs their attention by placing their hand upon it. Generally she indicates her preference for such visitors as are the best dressed. She is so much in company with blind persons that she thinks blindness common; and when first meeting a person she asks if they are blind,

or she feels of their eyes. She evidently knows that the blind differ from seeing persons; for when she shows blind persons anything she always puts their fingers on it. * * She is familiar with the processes of addition and subtraction in small numbers. Subtracting one number from another puzzled her for a time, but by help of objects she accomplished it. She can count and conceive objects to about one hundred in number—to express an indefinitely great number, or more than she can count, she says, *hundred*. If she thought a friend was to be absent many years, she would say—will come *hundred Sundays*—meaning weeks. She is pretty accurate in measuring time, and seems to have an intuitive tendency to do it. Unaided by the changes of night and day, by the light, or the sound of any timepiece, she nevertheless divides time accurately. With the days of the week, and the week itself as a whole, she is perfectly familiar; for instance, if asked her what day will it be in fifteen days more, she readily names the day of the week. The day she divides by the commencement and end of school, by the recesses, and by the arrival of meal-times. She goes to bed punctually at seven o'clock, and of her own accord. For some time after she came under our charge, she had some one to put her to bed every night; but soon it was thought best to send her alone, and that she might not wait for any one, she was left alone one evening, and she sat until quite late, a person watching her; and at last she seemed to form her resolution suddenly—she jumped up and groped her way up to bed. From that time to this she has never required to be told to go to bed; but at the arrival of the hour for retiring, she goes by herself. * * The sense of smell being destroyed, it seems a curious question whether the effect upon the organ of taste is general or particular,—that is, whether the taste is blunted generally, and for all things alike, or whether one kind of sapidity is more affected than another: to ascertain this, some experiments have been tried, but as yet not enough to enable one to state confidently the results in minute distinction. The general conclusions are these:—Acids seem to make vivid and distinct impression upon the taste; and she apparently distinguishes the different degrees of acidity, better than of sweetness or bitterness. She can distinguish between wine, cider, and vinegar, better than substances like manna, liquorice, and sugar. Of bitters she seems to have less perception, or indeed hardly any. * * With regard to the sense of touch it is very acute—even for a blind person. It is shown remarkably in the readiness with which she distinguishes persons: there are forty inmates in the female wing, with all of whom of course *Laura* is acquainted: whenever she is walking through the passageways, she perceives by the jar of the floor, or the agitation of the air, that some one is near her, and it is exceedingly difficult to pass her without being recognized. Her little arms are stretched out, and the instant she grasps a hand, a sleeve, or even part of the dress, she knows the person, and lets them pass on with some sign of recognition. The innate desire for knowledge, and the instinctive efforts which the human faculties make to exercise their functions, are shown most remarkably in *Laura*. Her tiny fingers are to her as eyes, and ears, and nose, and most deftly and incessantly does she keep them in motion: like the feelers of some insects which are continually agitated, and which touch every grain of sand in the path, so *Laura's* arms and hands are continually in play; and when she is walking with a person, she not only recognizes everything she passes within touching distance, but by continually touching her companion's hands, she ascertains what he is doing. A person walking across a room while she had hold on his left arm, would find it hard to take a pencil out of his waistcoat pocket with his right hand, without her perceiving it. Her judgment of distances and of relations of place is very accurate: she will rise from her seat, go straight towards a door, put out her hand just at the right time, and grasp the handle with precision. * * At table, if told to be still, she sits and conducts herself with propriety; handles her cup, spoon, and fork, like other children; so that a stranger looking at her would take her for a very pretty child with a green ribbon over her eyes. But when at liberty to do as she chooses, she is continually feeling things, and ascertaining their size, shape, density, and use—asking their names and their pur-

poses, going on with insatiable curiosity, step by step, towards knowledge. Thus doth her active mind, though all silent and darkling within, commune by means of her one sense with things external, and gratify its innate craving for knowledge by close and ceaseless attention. Qualities and appearances, unappreciable or unheeded by others, are to her of great significance and value; and by means of these her knowledge of external nature and physical relations will in time become extensive."

MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.—July 22.—R. H. Solly, Esq. in the Chair.—A paper was read by Mr. Andrew Ross, 'On a new mode of preventing vibration of the microscope.' This desirable end is attained by applying to the extremity of each of the three feet of the instrument, a small tripod stool about an inch and a half in diameter, through the top of which passes a screw that works on a moveable plate beneath. On the under surface is fixed a short strong spiral spring, with a loop at its lower extremity, by which it can be attached to the instrument at pleasure, by means of a small hook placed at the upper surface of the extremity of each of the feet of the base. The microscope stands upon three small patches of felt about three quarters of an inch in diameter, and if the pressure be partially, but not entirely, removed from these by a few turns of the screws on the tops of the tripod supporters, a degree of steadiness is produced which has never been equalled by any of the means that have hitherto been applied for that purpose.—A paper was read by Mr. J. Dalrymple, 'On the vascular arrangements of the capillary vessels of the allantois and vitelline membranes of the incubated egg, with the view of determining the proper functions of these integuments.' The author procured eggs from the *Eccaleobon*, at the nineteenth day of the artificial process of incubation, and injected one of them with parchment size and vermilion, through the omphalo-mesenteric vein. The bird immediately became red, the injection returned by the arteries, and the allantois and vitelline sac were beautifully charged with the coloured size. When the allantois was removed, and placed in water beneath the microscope, it was seen to consist of many large trunks of a somewhat tortuous character, giving off numerous smaller lateral branches, which frequently subdivided and inosculated. The author, after some observations on the recent labours on this subject, of Mr. Town and Prof. Owen, compared the vascular structure of the allantois of the bird with that of the lungs of frog, salamander, and serpent, and, from their similarity of structure, is of opinion that the allantois is a true respiratory membrane. He next described the character of the vascularity of the vitelline membrane at the nineteenth day of artificial incubation, and stated that immediately surrounding the remains of the vitelline membrane are seen, on the internal surface of the yolk sac, the commencement of a series of radiating folds, which dip deeper and deeper into the interior of the sac, presenting an elegant series of undulating plicæ, which increase in depth as they advance, and separate more and more from each other. The appearances of these parts were then described after the removal of the fluid yolk by gentle and repeated washing, but while yet partially covered by the adherent yellow globules of the yolk; and the observations of former writers on the subject were alluded to. The author illustrated his paper by the exhibition of a specimen of injected pulmonary capillaries of the allantois, and of four similar preparations of the vitelline membrane, *vasa lutea*, &c.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

MON.	Entomological Society	Eight, P.M.
TUES.	Horticultural Society	Three.
THUR.	Zoological Society (Gen. Bus.)	Three.
FRI.	Botanical Society	Eight.

MISCELLANEA

The Aerial Wheel.—In reference to this subject, we have received a letter from Mr. Beale, author of 'The History of the Sperm Whale,' of which the following is the substance:—"In a former number of the *Athenæum* there are a few words relating to a notice in the *Paris papers* of an invention by which a fulcrum or *point d'appui* can be established in the air. So long back as December 1836 I exhibited an aerial wheel, which had the power of propelling a

boat, and also a balloon, at a considerable rate, before a committee of gentlemen of the Society of Arts. * * The balloon which I exhibited, although very roughly made, was formed into a very elongated cylinder, so that its end being placed against the wind would meet with very little resistance, while the suspending power by the gas could be obtained in any quantity by increasing the length of the cylinder, without increasing the front exposed to the pressure of the air, which would act as the cutwater of a ship, and altogether upon the same principle as the hulls of ships are built, with regard to their external form. Then, on each side of the cylinder, I placed the wheels, (at about its anterior third,) which being set in motion by a power contained in the car, propelled the whole machine in any direction I thought fit through the air. With regard to the action of the aerial wheel upon the boat, I have merely to state, that a small boat, heavily laden with shot, was placed in a long trough filled with water, and on that part of the boat which may be denominated its fore-castle the wheel was placed, and which, being set in action, propelled the boat with considerable speed along the trough, although the wheel was not more than 2½ inches in diameter, and its moving power a watch-spring. * * I think it proper also to state, that I have tried the wheel upon a much larger scale, and on a common skiff in a large pond at Hackney, in which the experiment was successful, although my wheel was so badly constructed that it broke down almost directly it was set in action."

Dampier's Geometric Balance.—This is an ingenious application of a scientific principle, and, therefore, equally correct, whether used for weighing ounces or hundredweights. Those specially manufactured for weighing letters are sufficiently handsome to be an ornament to a library table.

Population of Russia.—The tables of M. Kœppen for 1838 give a population of 53,977,200 souls; and including the army and navy, the wandering tribes, Poland and Finland, the number of inhabitants is 62,500,000.

Theory of the Ripening of Fruits.—M. Fremy has written a memoir, in which he treats of the modifications which pectine undergoes by the action of chemical and natural agents. Green fruits contain a substance which is insoluble in water, and which may be changed into pectine by the action of acids even when greatly diluted. When the pulp of green fruits is mixed with a large quantity of water, a mass of insoluble matter may be extracted, which, if placed for some minutes in a very dilute solution of malic, tartaric, or sulphuric acids, is converted into a mucilaginous substance, which is pure pectine. As green fruits contain very little pectine perfectly formed, Fremy attributes its formation in ripe fruits to the action of acid contained in the fruit. In fruits which are cooked, pectine is formed by the acid, whose action is accelerated by heat. Pectine may be considered as a true acid, which undergoes remarkable changes in its capacity of saturation. Pectine, by the influence of a base in excess, is converted into pectic acid. Both possess the same composition, but the latter requires two atoms of base to form a neutral salt. The change may also be produced by vegetable albumen, existing in some fruits and roots, which appears to act as a fermenting principle.

Oil obtained from Whiskey and Potatoes. [From a Correspondent.]—In a former number of the *Athenæum*, a notice was given of a paper of Dr. Apjohn relative to this oil. If Dr. Apjohn had consulted Thomson's *British Annual* for 1837, p. 362, he would have found a description of the oil from grain by the Editor, and identified with that from potatoes, which was examined many years ago by Dumas.

New Kind of Tin Plate.—M. Budy has formed a superior tin plate of iron and nickel. It is five or six times harder than that now in use, and is very advantageous for culinary utensils, as it does not communicate any colour to sauces, which common tin plate frequently does.

Mode of Preserving Fruit.—M. St. Aubin recommends for this purpose, to form with clay a mass similar in size and shape to the fruit to be preserved. This mass is then to be surrounded with a thin coating of wax, and when the latter has cooled, it is to be cut in half, so as to obtain two hollow hemispheres. The fruit is then to be inclosed in the latter, which are to be cemented together with fresh wax.

Composition of Wool.—Chevreul has lately examined wool with a practical view in dyeing. He has found that wool when washed with distilled water contains at least three immediate principles; 1st, a fatty substance, solid at the ordinary temperature and perfectly liquid at 140°; 2nd, a fatty substance, liquid at the temperature of 59°; 3rd, a filamentous substance, constituting the wool properly so called. He has come to this conclusion because the filamentous matter disengages sulphur or hydro-sulphuric acid without losing its essential and characteristic properties, and hence it appears to him probable that the sulphur enters as an element into the composition of a substance quite distinct from the filamentous body.

Gleanings from the Note-Book of a Northern Traveller.—A Polish noble demanded a passport for Paris to visit his wife, who was ill there; the Prince Poszkiewicz was on the point of setting out for Petersburg, and turning to one of his officers said, "Let the count's passport be prepared for Paris immediately." In a day or two the count received one for Italy, and on representing that it was for Paris that he required it, he was answered that they had understood the prince to say "Italy," and dared not give any other. He had to send to Petersburg for one. Some time since, his brother, living in Russian Poland, demanded a passport for Volhynia, for himself and his lady, to visit her mother; he was refused, but told he might have one for Galicia, if that would be agreeable. This he gladly accepted, some of his brothers and sisters living there, whom he had never dared to ask for permission to visit.—Before the Polish revolution of 1830, the Prince L—S— had extensive possessions in Volhynia. One day the colonel of a regiment of Russian cavalry, quartered in a town on his property, came to the prince's cashier, and said that his regiment was about to be reviewed, and that the military chest of the regiment was so much in arrears, that he was a lost man unless the cashier would lend money to be reviewed; and solemnly promised that it should be restored in a few hours. The man yielded and about 300*l.* were lent. The reviewing general expressed himself well satisfied, and was taking leave, when the colonel stopped him, represented his uneasiness at having so much money in so insecure a place, and begged as a favour that the general would take it to a place of greater safety, giving him a receipt for the amount. This was done, and the poor cashier of Prince L— was in despair, and the prince himself not very well pleased. Before he had time to think of what was to be done, the colonel arrived, all gaiety and unconcern. When the prince began to remonstrate, he said: "My dear prince, why should you be displeased? I will let you have horses for a part of the amount, and the artillery workmen shall make you britzkas, or what you please, for the rest." It appears that the horses with which he paid his debt belonged to the regiment, but in his returns he entered them as *dead*. Among the horses he sold to the prince were four carriage horses: the latter tried them before purchasing, driven by the colonel's coachman; he afterwards remarked to the colonel on the excellence of his driving; the other answered, "if you like I will sell him to you—he belongs to the regiment, and I can return him dead too." A second review took place soon after, and the horses sold to the prince were *borrowed* for the occasion.

—Those who are not satisfied with the issue of a lawsuit may appeal to the senate, whose decision is irrevocable. This is done privately; but as it is important to the parties concerned, they endeavour to learn when their case is to be adjudged. The senate hears no pleadings, examines no witnesses, but judges entirely from the history of the cause, composed by one of their secretaries from the papers furnished by the tribunal where the cause has already been tried. This secretary would be banished for life to Siberia if he deviated from the truth in the slightest degree in this report; but when, as frequently happens, he has been well bribed by one of the parties, he makes his report so long and intricate and diffuse, that most of the senators are asleep or bewildered before he has half read it, and at last they desire him to make such an abridgment of it as they can examine at home. As this abridgment is not an official paper, he is at liberty to say all he pleases in favour of the party from whom he has received the bribe, and who thus gains his cause.

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